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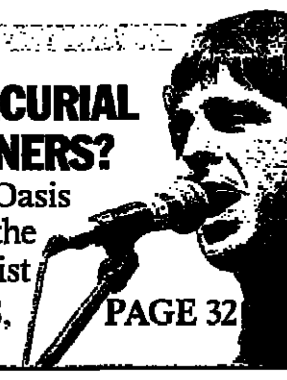

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Woman MP moves in where even Thatcher could not tread

Lait: breaching the male bastion of Whips' Office

By Jill Sherman and Philip Webster

JACQUI LAIT, MP for Hastings and Rye, broke down one of the remaining male barricades in the Commons yesterday by becoming the first woman to enter the Conservative Whips' Office.

John Major made the eye-catching appointment in a limited reshuffle necessitated by the departure of three ministers from the Government. Although there was a widespread welcome last night for Mrs Lait's promotion, Mr Major alarmed the Tory Right by making changes which it felt failed to balance the pro-European leanings of Kenneth Clarke and his Treasury team. The Prime Minister's rearrangement of Treasury functions left none of the five ministerial posts in the hands of an influential Eurosceptic. At Mr Clarke's request, the vacancy left by David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned on Monday over the single currency, was filled by his long-time ministerial aide, Phillip Oppenheim.

Rightwingers prospered generally in the limited reshuffle, with an important promotion for David Willetts, regarded as one of the Government's rising stars.

The big winner was Mrs Lait. Margaret Thatcher never succeeded in her ambition to become a whip and Gillian Shephard was also said to covet entry to this male-only preserve.

Mrs Lait, 49, the only female promotion yesterday, becomes the seventh woman in government. Last night she had no qualms about entering an office to which Mrs Thatcher had to be invited as Prime Minister and then only on special occasions.

Mrs Lait insisted that she was well used to dealing with men, having two brothers, a husband and five nephews. "I would like to think I am there on ability," she said.

She said that she had worked in the bar at Strathclyde University and part of her job had been throwing out drunken men. "I have always worked in a male environment. I have never found it a problem and I do not expect to this time," she said.

Mrs Lait married Peter Jones, a company director, in 1974. They have no children. Some time ago she said: "We took a deliberate decision not to have children. We have other things to do."

The other main promotions went to Andrew Mackay, who continued his swift rise through the ranks in the Whips' Office to become Deputy Chief Whip, Greg Knight, who moves from that post to become Minister of State at the DTI, and John Bowis, who becomes the Transport Minister, moving from the post of Junior Health Minister.

Mr Knight and Mr Bowis replace Tim Eggar and Steve Norris, who are standing down.

In other changes, Simon Burns leaves the Whips' Office to become Health Minister. Liam Fox ends his spell as a whip and becomes a Junior Foreign Office Minister. Peter Ainsworth and Anthony Coombs join the Whips' Office along with Mrs Lait.

Mrs Lait, a pro-European loyalist, entered the Commons in 1992 as MP for Hastings and Rye after a long battle to gain a seat. She has a cheerful, enthusiastic "jolly hockey sticks" approach and has impressed with her loyalist interventions in the Commons, as have the other government newcomers. Her appointment was approved by the entire cast list in the Whips' Office who have a veto over any new entrant.

A former public relations consultant, she ran her own parliamentary consultancy business before becoming an MP.

New faces, page 2
Leading article, page 17

EU tries to halt panic on sheep

By Charles Bremner and Michael Hornsby

EUROPEAN officials were trying to smother a "mad sheep" crisis yesterday as livestock markets showed the first signs of panic with a 15 per cent fall in prices.

With ministers insisting that sheep were most unlikely to contract BSE, the Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler came under attack for kindling the latest flare-up in the "mad cow" saga.

Loyola de Palacio, the Spanish Farm Minister, said that Herr Fischler's statement calling for a ban on some sheep and goat offal had achieved the opposite of his intention of reassuring consumers. "This has provoked unjustified and extremely serious fears," she said. And Ivan Yates, the Irish minister, appealed for a sense of proportion. "It is important to learn the lessons of the last six months with BSE. It is quite easy to strike a match and cause a forest fire with regard to BSE. It is more difficult to put it out."

The Commission decided to call for a ban on the use of brain, spinal cord and spleen from goats and sheep after scientists in France and Scotland found that some sheep contracted BSE after being fed infected brain tissue from cattle. But there is no evidence that sheep on farms had ever been infected.

Brussels is acting partly under pressure from the French Government, whose advisers suspect that BSE is being under-reported and could be affecting a range of animals. France has already banned consumption of brain tissue and has imposed strict rules on the production of animal-based feed.

Now the Commission wants to extend some of the restrictions across the EU, not so much to protect humans as to remove the risk of other animals contracting BSE.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, is expected to tell MPs today that Britain is willing to go along with that and yesterday he said there was no need for a lamb crisis "if people are sensible".

The measures proposed by Herr Fischler would merely exclude from the food chain parts of the animal that were not eaten. "I believe that lamb throughout Europe is wholly safe," he said.

The only cuts likely to be affected by a ban would be saddle of lamb, which includes the backbone, the Barnsley chop, which has a section of spine at its centre, and rosette of lamb from the neck. But even these could continue to be produced as usual, since removal of the spinal cord was likely to be required only if the animal was more than a year old — and most lambs are slaughtered before that age.

Some meat industry and farmers' leaders agreed that the proposed ban prudent, but even so, lamb prices at British markets fell from £1.14 per kg last week to 96p.

Sheep scare, page 8

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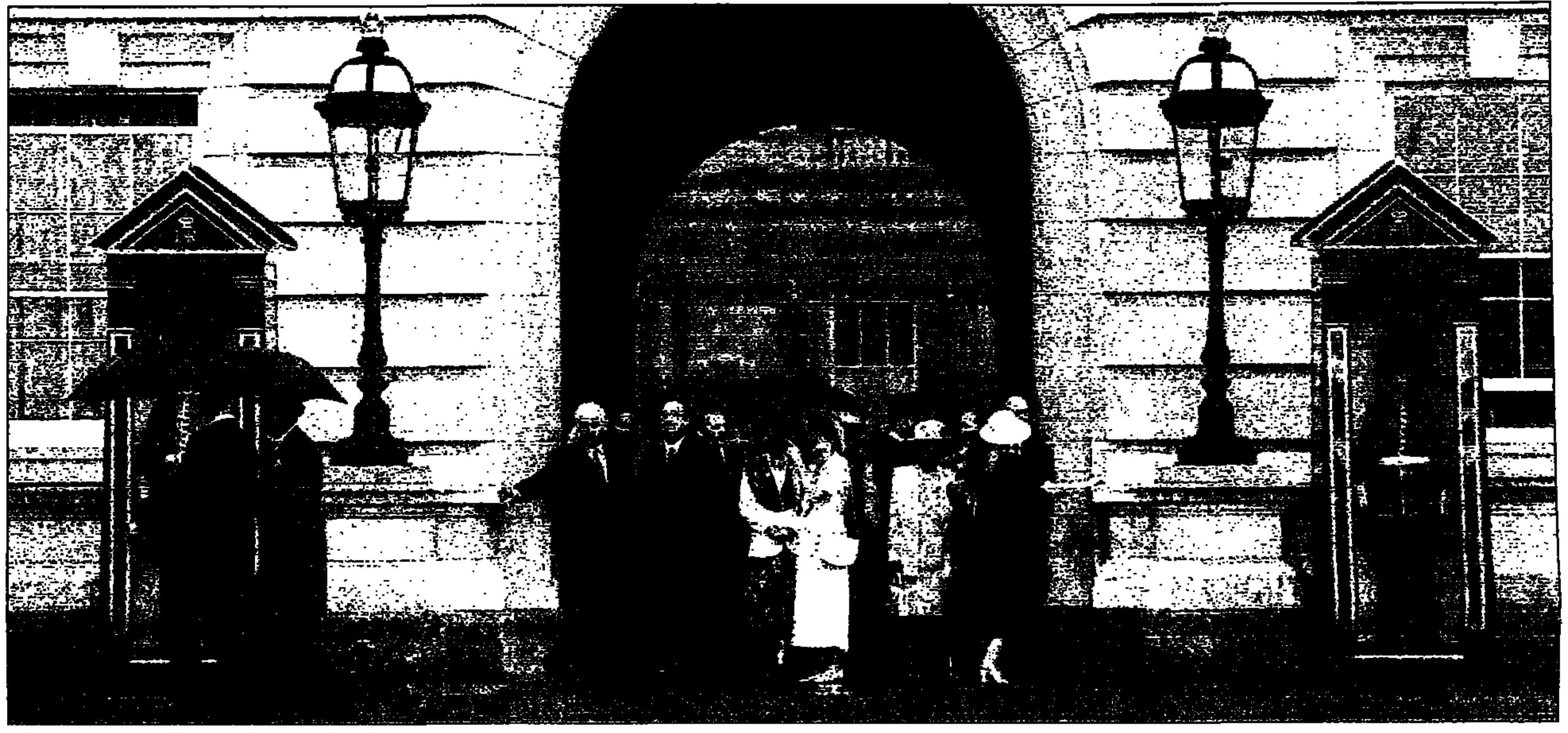

GUESTS at a royal garden party huddle from the storm at Buckingham Palace yesterday after three women were struck by lightning (Adam Fresco writes).

Lightning strikes guests at Queen's party

Spectacular storms across the South East and Scotland marked the end of the hot dry spell. Scores of people telephoned the emergency services as power supplies to homes were cut. In Buckinghamshire, huge hailstones were reported.

Fourteen French, Spanish and Italian language students were injured as they played in a park at Richmond Lock, southwest London. One girl with serious leg injuries was taken to a burns unit.

The women at the garden party, given by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, were taken to St Thomas's Hospital. One woman who sheltered under a plane tree near a lake suffered burns and is believed to have lost consciousness. She was given first aid by a doctor who was among the guests. Her daughter was treated for shock and another woman was treated for bruising after being thrown to the ground. Two other women were also treated for shock. The area around the base of the tree was littered with pieces of burnt bark and a large circle of scorched earth surrounded a sapling tree near where the two women had stood. It is believed one of the women may have opened her umbrella shortly before the lightning struck.

The Queen, who was taking tea 150 yards away in the Royal Tea Tent, was told of the accident but decided not to cancel the party.

Forecast, page 24

Branson's lottery bribe claims rejected by QC

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

RICHARD BRANSON'S allegation that he was offered a bribe to pull out of the contest to run the National Lottery was unequivocally dismissed yesterday by the QC who investigated his allegations.

Anne Rafferty concludes that the American businessman Guy Snowden — one of the partners in the successful Camelot consortium — had no reason to regard the Virgin group as a threat, and she doubts that so experienced a businessman would make an improper overture in the way Mr Branson described.

She also points out that contact between the two parties was initiated by Mr Branson, and she wonders why the Virgin chief took two years to make his concerns public. After a five-month inquiry boycotted by Mr Branson, she concludes: "I am not able to find as a fact that there was any attempt to bribe Mr Richard Branson on September 24."

Ms Rafferty's five-page report has been sent to Peter Davis, the Director General of Oflot who set up the inquiry last December, and it is expected to be published within the next few days.

It makes uncomfortable reading for Mr Branson, who is preparing for a High Court confrontation with Mr Snowden later this year. Mr Snowden, chairman of the American company GTech, is suing the Virgin chief for libel for the original bribery allegation made on the BBC *Panorama* programme last year. And Mr Branson is suing Mr Snowden for accusing him of lying over the claim.

Mr Branson refused to have anything to do with the inquiry on the ground that it was not independent, had a limited remit and was held in private. Ms Rafferty took no oral evidence and reached her conclusions on the basis of written submissions. But the report poses a series of questions

Continued on page 2, col 5

"Is this the marathon or is the transport system up the spout?"

Assault case row

There was a furious reaction from pressure groups when a case against a policeman accused of grabbing the breasts of two women colleagues was halted. The judge said that the officer should have had a "sound ticking-off"...... Page 3

Spies win licence to appeal over sackings

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

SECURITY and intelligence service employees are to be allowed to appeal to industrial tribunals over cases of wrongful dismissal.

The decision was announced yesterday by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, after an extensive review by a Cabinet Office committee of employment practices in MI6, MI5 and GCHQ, the Government's communications headquarters in Cheltenham.

But the lifting of the blanket ban on access to tribunals will affect only straightforward claims which do not have operational implications, such as sex discrimination.

Mr Rifkind said decisions on whether access to industrial tribunals should be allowed would be taken case by case.

A former MI6 officer is currently attempting to sue the intelligence service for wrongful dismissal. However, Mr Rifkind has issued a ministerial certificate banning him from having his case heard by a tribunal.

The certificate was issued because the case allegedly concerned the former officer's competence. An industrial tribunal hearing would have led to discussion of operational matters.

The Foreign Office said that yesterday's announcement had no bearing on his case, which he is expected to take to the European Court of Human Rights.

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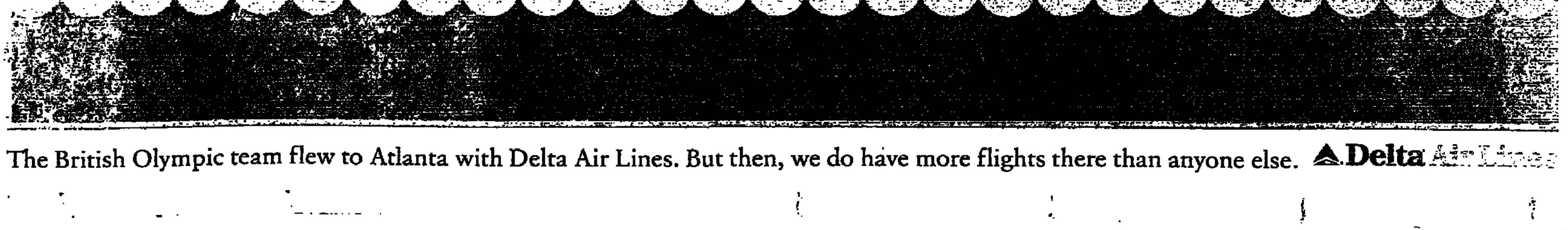

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Consultants seek curb on non-doctors wielding scalpel

By Jeremy Laurance
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTER safeguards on the growing number of non-doctors performing operations and medical procedures were demanded by consultants' leaders yesterday amid fears that risks to patients are rising.

Staff such as nurses and chiropodists are carrying out tasks for which they are not properly trained or supervised, senior doctors said. Patients often do not know they are being treated by a non-doctor and titles such as "specialist practitioner" or "consultant" disguise their true status.

In a report published yesterday, the Joint Consultants Committee, representing senior doctors in the NHS, says each specialist profession must agree which procedures can be safely delegated to non-doctors and draw up guidelines on training and supervision.

Privately, consultants say patients are suffering at the hands of poorly trained and inadequately supervised staff. Vascular surgeons report having to amputate toes and feet after operations by chiropodists have gone wrong.

Although the operation itself may appear simple, chiropodists have failed to spot warning signs of poor circulation caused by heart disease which dramatically increase the risks of surgery.

Professor Sir Norman Browse, chairman of the committee, said he supported moves to extend the role of nurses and paramedical staff to include minor surgery and other procedures but there was a limit. He described as "unwise" the case last year in which Valerie Tomlinson, a nurse at Treliske hospital in Cornwall, was able to remove a patient's appendix.

"In a third or more cases a person who appears to have appendicitis has something else wrong. It might be a perforated duodenum or a problem with the bowel.

"A nurse may be able to lift up the appendix and snip it off but she may not be able to deal with these other complications. The whole purpose of a surgeon's training is not solely to enable them to perform a particular procedure more skilfully than a non-medically qualified person but to ensure that they can anticipate and deal with complications and the unexpected. We are concerned to ensure that patient safety is paramount," he said.

However, the recent case of Gillian Erickson, a nurse at Clatterbridge hospital, Wirral who has performed more than 200 minor operations on the hand could be acceptable if the surgery was carried out in accordance with the safeguards, he said.

Sir Norman added that delegating tasks such as these was probably necessary to meet the growing demand for health care, but it was essential that staff were properly trained and supervised, followed firm protocols and made their status known to the patient, he said.

Sir Rodney Sweetnam, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said no other country in Europe allowed surgery to be undertaken by non-medically qualified staff and that in Britain animals enjoyed greater protection than humans.

"Animals are protected from operations on their bodies by anyone other than a fully trained veterinary surgeon. I am sorry to say that patients in this country do not have the same protection." He denied that surgeons were trying to protect their jobs and said nurses trained to assist cardiac surgeons or to perform minor operations were perfectly acceptable. "It helps a hard-pressed workforce."

However, he said that groups were taking up the scalpel without nationally agreed training programmes or certification and that rules should be laid down by Parliament. "There is a developing jungle out there and the time has come for the public to say whether they want only surgeons to operate on them."

The UK Central Council on Nursing criticised the consultants for failing to include nurses in producing their document which they dubbed a "missed opportunity".

The Society of Chiropodists said 10,000 foot operations were performed by its members last year and a similar number of surgical procedures on nails.

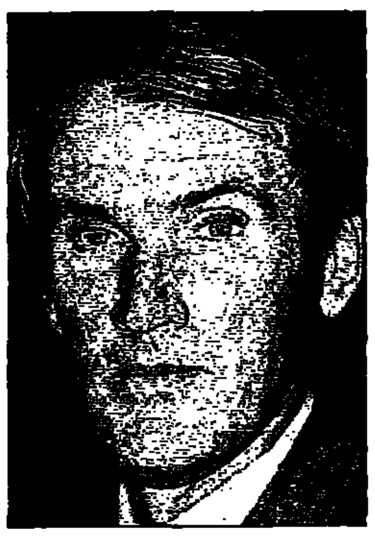
In a statement, the society rejected the idea of tasks being "delegated" to chiropodists but said they were prepared to work with doctors.

The statement added: "We reject any implication being given to the public that they are in any danger from surgical treatment performed by appropriately trained and examined, state-registered chiropodists and podiatrists."

Winning cards in Prime Minister's reshuffled pack

PHILLIP OPPENHEIM, the Junior Minister at Trade and Industry, will be picking up David Heathcoat-Amory's red boxes and chauffeur-driven car every night. He has collected the new title of Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury. In the run-up to the election, the job is unlikely to be taxing, but Mr Oppenheim will be mollified by working for his hero, Kenneth Clarke, who shares his enjoyment of beer and curries. The Chancellor specifically asked for Mr Oppenheim, who will toe his line on Europe. Better known for his exploits with Page Three girls, chronicled in the tabloid press, he also has a masterly command of technical detail. He surprised everyone by winning Amber Valley in 1983 at the age of 27 and was immediately marked out as a Tory *Wunderkind*. But the blue-chip, well-connected MP has irritated many in his party with his laddish behaviour and his refusal, even at 40, to grow up. He calls his dog Vomit and has just finished writing a "bonkbuster" novel. He won the title of most romantic MP of the year.

DAVID WILLETTS, the Prime Minister's guru and Public Service Minister, got the greatest reward from the reshuffle. Until now few voters had heard of Mr Willetts. Nicknamed the thinker among the drinkers, he has always been a backroom boy. He was an adviser to Margaret Thatcher, private secretary to Nigel Lawson and director of the Centre for Policy Studies, the Tory think-tank, before becoming MP for Havant, Hampshire, at 33. As a backbencher and junior minister he has been at the heart of Tory strategy. After an unhappy spell in the whips office, he has thrived as a junior minister in the Cabinet Office. Brought up in a semi-detached home in Moseley, Birmingham, and educated at a direct-grant school and Oxford, he has friends on both sides of the party. Some colleagues have criticised the donnish 40-year-old for being pompous, unworldly and ambitious. Friends say he is a practical, political intellect who dreams of becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer.



ANDREW MACKAY'S elevation to Deputy Chief Whip is the latest in a string of promotions for the former estate agent. Now the most experienced whip in John Major's team, he is a silver-tongued charmer intent on snuffing out backbench rebellion at the outset. The unflappable rightwinger has been admired for his guile in helping the Government to survive endless threatened revolts. Most recently as pairing whip he has spun a web of persuasion to encourage Tory MPs to protect a dwindling majority. Even MPs forced to break social engagements to bail out the Government speak highly of his tactics. He rose still higher in their estimation with a persuasive case to the Senior Salaries Review Body, which recommended a 26 per cent rise. He has become the archetypal senior whip, gliding through the tearooms and bars, ears attuned to the faintest signal of rebellion, eyes peeled for suspicious-looking cliques. His year-round tan — reinforced by perpetual foreign travel and a congested golfing diary — is a talking point of the lobbies.

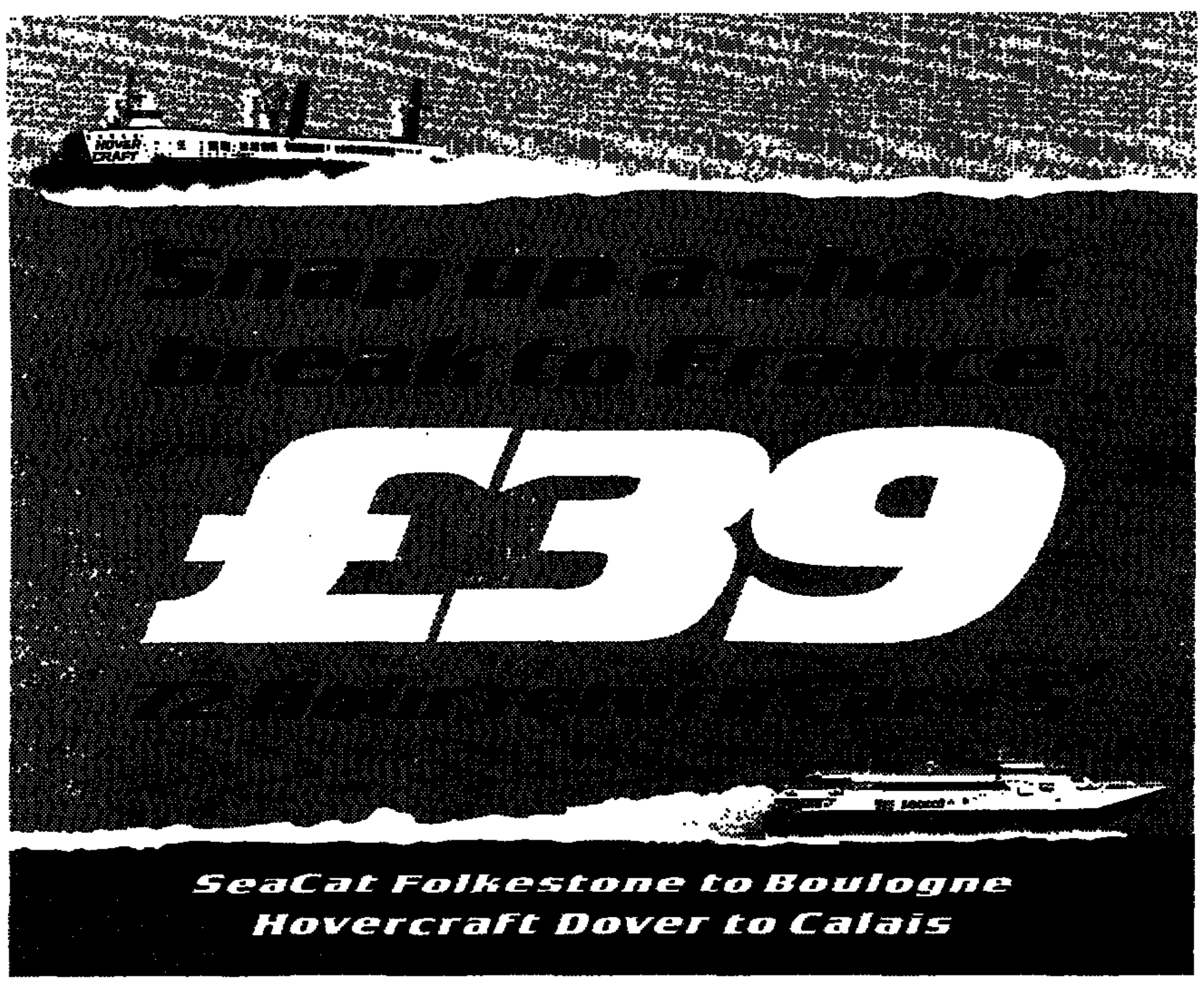
JOHN BOWIS, the new junior Transport Minister, could hardly be in starker physical contrast to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, who is the tallest MP in the Commons. Known as "Bulky" to political friends, Mr Bowis, 50, is a stalwart of the Commons tug-of-war team and a curry addict. Political opponents have dubbed the duo the Laurel and Hardy of Whitehall. Elected MP for Battersea in 1987, he replaced the former Labour minister Alf Dubs and was quickly marked out for promotion. He was made a parliamentary private secretary to David Hunt by Margaret Thatcher in 1989. He has been a Junior Health Minister since 1993, earning a reputation for being solid and reliable and performing well in the Commons. Gregarious and outgoing, he was a star of the *Blue Review*, a former feature of Tory party conferences, being described as "a gifted comic actor" by a theatre critic. Educated at Tonbridge School and Brasenose College, Oxford, he is married with three children.

GREG KNIGHT'S departure from the Government whips' office will be a relief to Tory MPs of the rebellious tendency. Mr Knight, 47, the new Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, is the author of a book of parliamentary insults. He learnt most of them in his period as Deputy Chief Whip where he was one of the most feared men in the Government. He is a quick learner. When he entered the Commons in 1983 he had impressed Margaret Thatcher as the creator of prescient campaign song, *Maggie will always be around*. The admiration dimmed when she met him and found he sported a beard. A former drummer in a pop group, he once used the amplifiers from a recording studio he ran to drown out a political opponent's speech. An avowed animal rights campaigner, he owned two Brazilian squirrel monkeys until 1988. He is best known as a collector of classic cars, and is believed to have been a key influence in persuading the Chancellor to introduce tax concessions for cars more than 25 years old.

THE APPOINTMENTS

The new posts in John Major's government reshuffle

Greg Knight	Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry
David Willetts	Paymaster General, Office of Public Service
John Bowis	Undersecretary of State, Department of Transport
Phillip Oppenheim	Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury
Liam Fox	Undersecretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Simon Burns	Undersecretary of State, Department of Health
Andrew Mackay	Treasurer of her Majesty's Household (Deputy Chief Whip)
Derek Conway	Vice Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household
Patrick McLoughlin	Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury
Roger Knapman	Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury
Richard Ottaway	Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury
Anthony Coombs	Assistant Government Whip
Jacqui Lait	Assistant Government Whip
Peter Ainsworth	Assistant Government Whip



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Branson claims

Continued from page 1

which Mr Branson would have been required to answer had he co-operated.

First, she asks whether the words reportedly used by Mr Snowden at a lunch party inevitably suggested a bribe. Mr Snowden is is alleged to have said: "Well, I don't know how to phrase this, Richard. There is always a bottom line. I'll get to the point. In what way can I help you Richard? I'm sure everybody needs something." Mr Branson took this to be a bribe to withdraw his bid to run the lottery.

Second, the report questions whether the bribe attempt would have been made by Mr Snowden who was alone at the meeting, while Mr Branson was at all times accompanied by an aide or colleague. It asks: "How likely is it that an experienced businessman would make such an attempt when unaccompanied, whilst the object of his attempt clearly had an ally with him? "

Thirdly, the report asks why it took Mr Branson so long to come forward with the allegations. "Why did it take two years for a concerned Mr Branson, disappointed as I conceive him to be by his claimed failure to interest the Director-General (of Oflot) in the allegation, to air his anxieties publicly?"

Ms Rafferty writes: "I have heard nothing by way of explanation for the queries that I list above, and am therefore in a position to do no more than highlight them as instances of questions to which I would have appreciated answers."

She then goes on to make four points in concluding that there was no reason for a bribe. There was no hint that the Camelot consortium felt Mr Branson to be a threat; the initial contact between the two parties came from Mr Branson, not from G Tech; the Camelot consortium had devoted years to developing its bid; and Mr Snowden's more realistic view of the "financial realities" of lottery management seemed to have prevailed.

According to Mr Snowden, who submitted written evidence to the inquiry, the lunch meeting between the two men was "an awkward occasion, charactised ... by Mr Branson's inability or refusal to grasp the realities of the Camelot Consortium's advanced state of readiness" and "carefully planned back-up".

Mr Snowden also believed that Mr Branson's showed a lack of awareness that "the giving of a high percentage of profits to charity was a naive assertion which missed the point of the way the lottery would be organised."

The report adds: "At no stage, he avers, was he made anxious that what he saw as Camelot's prime position in contention for the lottery licence was threatened."

Last night Mr Branson's office said that he was abroad. His lawyers, Harbottle & Lewis, said that they would issue a statement when the report was published. Earlier this year, a Virgin spokesman said that the issue would be properly investigated in the High Court libel action.

Openness pledge on defence sales

The Government promised yesterday to be more open about Britain's overseas defence sales after criticism in Sir Richard Scott's report into the arms-for-Iraq affair (Michael Evans writes). Sir Richard urged the Ministry of Defence to review the longstanding policy under which successive governments have refused to answer questions in Parliament about defence equipment exports.

Yesterday James Arbuthnot, the Defence Procurement Minister, said that the convention would be scrapped and questions would be answered "to the fullest extent possible". But, he attached conditions that made clear there was no dramatic policy shift, saying full details would be given provided they did not jeopardise "national security, the legitimate security concerns of importers, or British relations with other countries".

☐ David Clark, Opposition spokesman on defence, called on Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, to make a Commons statement today about three RAF equipment contracts worth about £3.5 billion.

Talks on loyalist march

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, held talks with leaders of the loyalist Apprentice Boys as fears increased that their annual parade in Londonderry next month could cause trouble. The local MP, John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, is also to have talks with the Apprentice Boys. Republicans are intent on having the parade, on August 10, routed away from the city walls overlooking the nationalist Bogside.

Job qualification alert

Job-related qualifications taken by more than a million people could never be successful in their present form and should be scrapped, a leading government education adviser said in a report yesterday (David Charter writes). John Marks, a member of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said that National Vocational Qualifications had failed because they still lacked rigorous standards eight years after their launch.

Driving 'reform school'

An experimental road safety scheme giving dangerous drivers the chance to escape punishment by attending tough rehabilitation sessions in the classroom could be extended throughout the country. Transport Ministers are monitoring a project run by Devon council, which has resulted in dramatic improvements in driving standards. Drivers caught speeding or driving carelessly in Devon can opt for the course rather than go to court.

Wallace appeal begins

Colin Wallace, a former Army information officer, began an appeal against a conviction for manslaughter, 15 years after being jailed for killing an antiques dealer. Mr Wallace, freed in 1986, has claimed he was the victim of a "dirty tricks" campaign after speaking about an alleged right-wing plot to discredit certain politicians. Michael Mansfield, QC, cited fresh medical opinion, saying the case against Mr Wallace was "fundamentally flawed".

Woman beaten to death

A woman has been found beaten to death in her bedsit at Newquay, Cornwall. Kathryn Sharples, 43, who was divorced, was found lying face down in the ground-floor bathroom. She had been struck several times on the back of the head with a blunt instrument. There was no sign of a struggle or sexual assault and detectives believe that she may have known her killer. She was last seen alive at 10.30pm on Sunday.

Sun-proof road tested

Government scientists are testing a sun-resistant road surface capable of withstanding the hottest British summers. They hope that the improved "bitumous macadam", designed to stay solid at temperatures of up to 65c (145F), will consign the embarrassment of melting motorways to history. In very hot weather molten tar tends to bubble to the surface. Cars leave deep ruts in the softened road costing millions of pounds to repair.

More red kites released

The reintroduction of the red kite to England 100 years after it all but disappeared continued yesterday as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds released 16 into the wild at a secret location in the middle of the country. Last year 11 of the birds of prey were released in the Midlands, and of these nine have survived. One was poisoned — a reminder of the way the birds were persecuted in the last century.

'Sex tourism' legislation

British paedophiles who abuse children abroad will face prosecution in the United Kingdom under proposed legislation announced by the Home Secretary. The move comes amid concern over paedophiles who travel to countries such as Thailand and the Philippines for sex with child prostitutes. Michael Howard also announced plans to extend court powers to try foreign extremists resident in Britain who plan or incite crimes abroad.

Ice Age elephant find

An Ice Age elephant has been unearthed in Cambridgeshire by an amateur geologist. The remains of the animal, which is between 110,000 and 120,000 years old, was found in a gravel pit near Peterborough close to a spot where other archaeologists are working on a Bronze Age site. The prehistoric find, of a straight-tusked elephant or *Palaeoloxodon antiquus*, has been made by Pauline Dawn, an editorial assistant from Stamford, Lincolnshire.

The three-year-old boy

Hunt for mother of boy found in bush

By Joanna Bale

POLICE are trying to trace the mother of a three-year-old boy who was found asleep under a bush in Bournemouth after apparently being abandoned.

The boy, who may be called Steven, was found by a passer-by at 7pm on Monday in the grounds of a community centre at Pelham Park, Kinson.

Dorset police said yesterday: "He has mentioned the town of Hemel Hempstead, so we have been in contact with police there, but no child has been reported missing." Foster parents are caring for the boy.

Officer accused of grabbing women constables 'should have had just a sound ticking-off'

Outcry as judge halts police sex assault case

By Kate Alderson and Joanna Bale

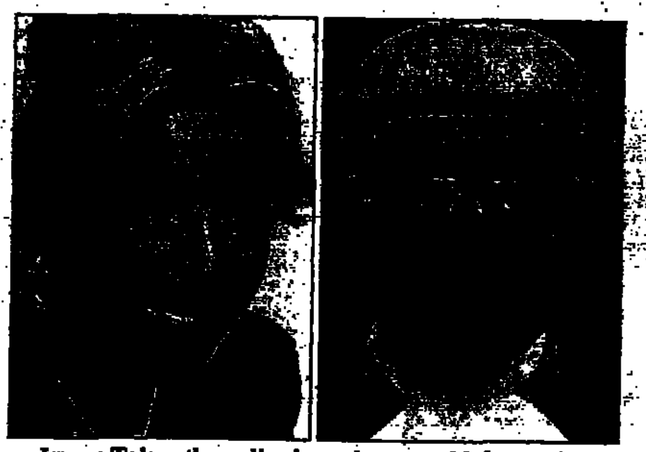
THE case against a policeman accused of grabbing the breasts of two female constables was halted yesterday by a judge who said that the officer should have had a "sound ticking-off" instead.

There was a furious reaction from pressure groups and MPs after Judge McCallum directed the jury to find PC Robert Bridle, 41, not guilty of three charges of indecent assault. The group Justice for Women urged him to resign.

The judge said that PC Bridle's actions had stemmed from the sort of behaviour "that people are liable to indulge in when there is a lot of tension around". A verdict of not guilty was also returned on another indecent assault charge, due to be heard at a separate hearing.

Lynne Tolan, the former detective chief inspector who investigated the case, condemned the judge's comments as "biased, crass, prejudicial and outdated". After the hearing at Bradford Crown Court, she said: "The message could rightly be concluded as, 'Join Britain's modern police service, girls — and get your tits groped.' "

West Yorkshire Police said they would be "robustly pursuing" further action against PC Bridle, who has been suspended for nearly two years.



Lynne Tolan, the police investigator, said that Judge McCallum's comments were crass and biased

Judge McCallum was told during the opening day of the case on Monday that horseplay and sexual banter were common at the Halifax station where the officers were based.

PC Bridle, of Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, who is married, had denied the four charges. The first incident was alleged to have occurred in September 1994 after another male officer made a joke about a WPC having bigger breasts than a colleague. The WPC, who cannot be named, said that PC Bridle had said something like "let's see, then".

She told the court: "He came up behind me. I put my head forward and my hands over me — I was protecting myself. He put his hands underneath my hands and held on to my breasts." John Cooper, for the prosecution, said PC Bridle was alleged to have indecently assaulted another policewoman the following month by sitting astride her with his pelvis on hers. She believed he was trying to kiss her. On another occasion he put his hand between the officer's jumper and shirt and rested it on her right breast. She made a complaint the next day.

PC Bridle told investigators that he had never touched the first WPC. He did not find her physically attractive because she looked like "a bulldog chewing a wasp".

He admitted massaging the second officer's neck and may have sat astride her in "a jokey sort of way", but said there was no sexual connotation. The allegation that he put his hand up her jumper was a "total and utter lie".

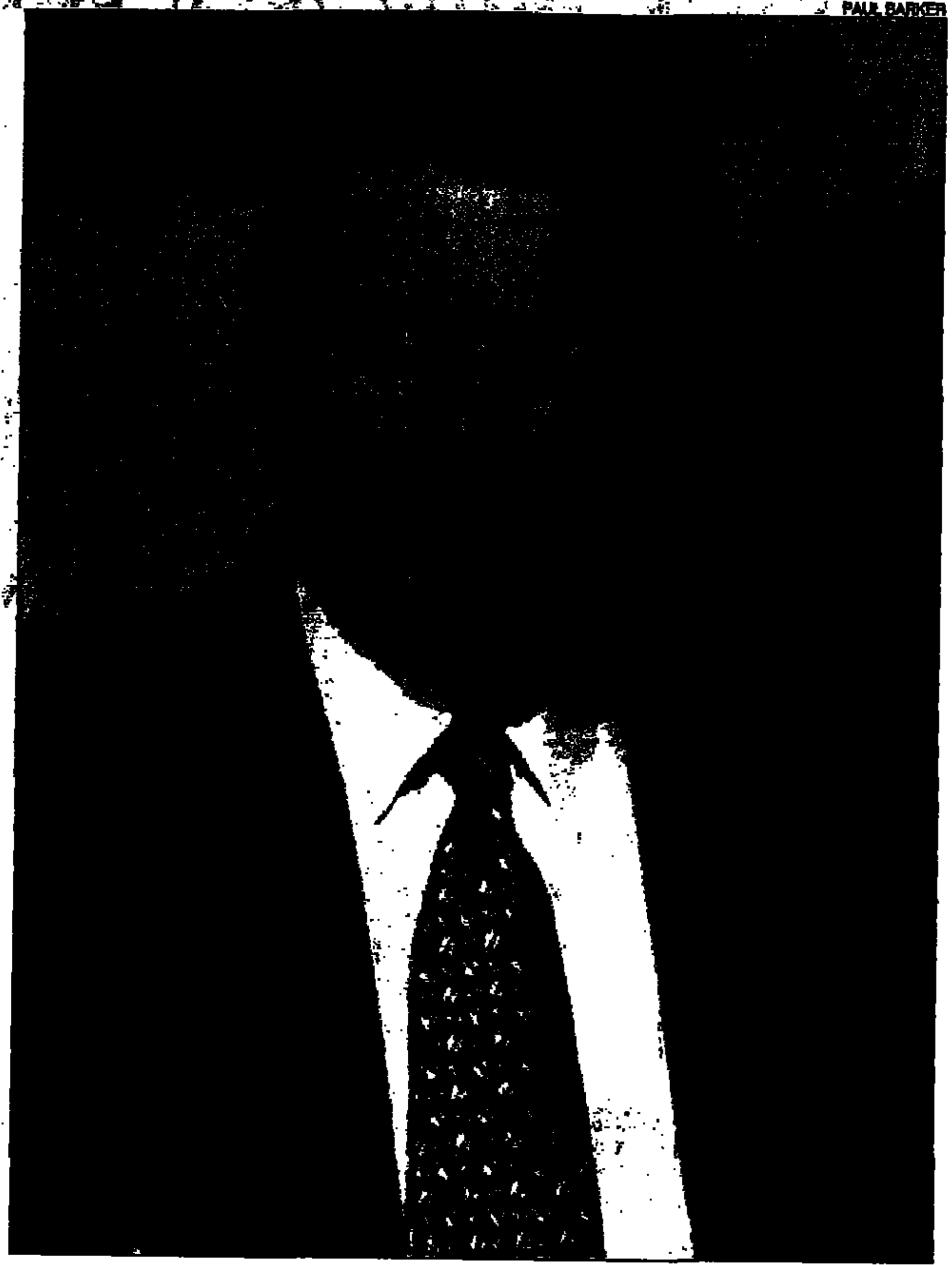
Robert Smith, QC, for the defence, said that, after his long suspension, PC Bridle did not have a rosy future in the force, whatever the outcome of the case.

The judge said that although the women had complained, they had wanted the case to be dealt with by senior officers rather than at court. After sending the jury out on Monday afternoon, he said told the prosecutor: "No serious purpose is being served by airing what goes on in busy police stations ... the appropriate way to deal with him, is his superior officer to give him a sound ticking off to make sure he doesn't behave in a way which most people find unacceptable. It is the sort of behaviour people are likely to indulge in when there is a lot of tension about."

The judge directed the jury to deliver not guilty verdicts after the prosecution offered no further evidence yesterday morning.

Ruth Hall, of Women Against Rape, said: "If the police are allowed to get away with sex assaults on their own colleagues, no woman is safe. The judge should be sacked."

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax, said: "Many women will be shocked at this. "We expect our judges to take that kind of behaviour a little more seriously. I am absolutelydisgusted."



PAUL BARKER

PC Robert Bridle, 41, has been suspended from the force for nearly two years

Brittany murder victim had been stalked for days

From Bill Frost in Pleine Fougères

THE tramp accused of raping and murdering 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson at a youth hostel in Brittany had stalked her school party from the day they arrived in France.

Last night police sources named the killer as Patrice Pade, a vagrant in his early 40s. He has a conviction for rape and a history of other violent sexual offences.

Gerard Zaug, the examining magistrate in charge of the case, said that, once the party from Launceston College in Cornwall had been targeted by Pade, the murder was inevitable. "From the moment this man saw his prey, nothing could stop him."

Caroline's four room-mates woke last Thursday at the hostel in Pleine Fougères to find her body, face down on her mattress. She had been raped and suffocated. M Zaug said that her friends had heard nothing during the night because Pade had clamped his hand over her mouth. He added that her room-mates had also told police that they were particularly tired that evening. "They were sound asleep; it had been an exhausting day."

Pade arrived in the town, 40 miles east of St Malo, 48 hours before the party from Launceston. He watched the hostel for four days before he struck. Under French fire safety laws, the building must remain unlocked at night. Pade apparently had little difficulty slipping past the night watchwoman and entering the first-floor bedroom where Caroline lay asleep.

Pade had been noticed by children in Pleine Fougères soon after his arrival. Once Caroline's body was found they gave detectives a detailed description of the tramp, which was circulated across France.

He was arrested in Sourdeval, 35 miles east of Pleine Fougères, on Saturday afternoon after a policeman saw him walking on a road south of the town. Detectives investigating Caroline's murder arrived half an hour later and Pade confessed to his crime soon afterwards.

"We got him very quickly after being told that he was heavily tattooed and wearing an earring," M Zaug said. "He had been seen sleeping rough around Pleine Fougères."

Pade was transferred yesterday from his cell in St Malo to a high-security jail that police would not name. Earlier he underwent further questioning and formally admitted his crimes.

His trial may be several months off, M Zaug indicated last night. Police sources said that, given his previous convictions for sexual offences, "a life sentence in his case will really mean life".

In Pleine Fougères, Lionel Morin, owner of the Hotel des Voyagers, said: "We hope this man's arrest and admission of guilt will be of some relief to Caroline's poor family."

Clubs told to end free drink ads for women

By Carol Midgley

NIGHTCLUBS that offer free admission and drinks to women are breaking the law, the Equal Opportunities Commission said yesterday.

Three clubs in Stoke-on-Trent have been told to abandon local radio advertisements promoting a complimentary glass of champagne and "free admission to all ladies". The Radio Authority ordered their removal after consulting the commission. The authority said: "We did receive complaints about three adverts. As a matter of course we consult the Equal Opportunities Commission in such matters and it told us the ads discriminated against men. The offers have to apply to men as well, we were told."

Becky Nathan, assistant manager of the Uropa, one of the clubs that ran the advertisements, said: "We never had any complaints. We wanted to balance out the sexes as well as attract more couples, so it seemed a natural thing to do. We are very upset to be told we cannot do it. But we will carry on offering free admission or free drinks to avoid having too many men here — we simply won't advertise it.

"No men complained. After all, it attracted more women, so why should they? And for couples it meant one of them got in for nothing."

Media, page 22

Barclays bomber threatens to hit Sainsbury's stores

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

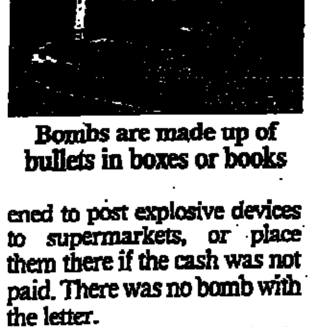
A BOMBER who has waged a campaign against Barclays Bank has threatened to plant explosive devices at Sainsbury's supermarkets in an attempt to extort "a considerable amount of money", Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Shoppers and staff at the company's 363 branches are being warned to be on their guard against bullet bombs among goods on the shelves or in car parks.

The supermarket chain, used by 8.7 million shoppers a week, has increased security at its stores, which were already patrolled at night by security guards and employ closed circuit television cameras inside and out.

The extortionist, the self-styled Mardi Gra bomber, extended the range of his 19-month campaign in a letter to a Sainsbury's director at the head office in south London on July 10.

In the letter, the bomber demanded a "considerable amount of money" and threatened to post explosive devices to supermarkets, or place them there if the cash was not paid. There was no bomb with the letter.



Bombs are made up of bullets in boxes or books

Sainsbury's immediately contacted the Metropolitan Police, who made the unusual decision in attempted blackmail cases to release details to the public in an attempt to catch the extortionist.

Detective Superintendent John Beadle, who is leading the hunt, said he was convinced that the letter had come from the same person responsible for 25 attacks on Barclays banks or officials that began in December 1994. He declined to disclose how much cash the man had demanded.

Mr Beadle told a press conference at Scotland Yard that police believed that the blackmailer was a person rather than an organisation, living in London or the South East. "We think it is likely it is somebody who is some sort of obsessive and has the time and abililty to construct these devices."

He said the "bullet bombs", consisting of shotgun cartridges and bullets fitted into video boxes and books, and designed to explode when opened, had been made with great care.

Last night Dino Adriano, deputy chief executive of Sainsbury's supermarkets, said that the police advice was that the risk was low. He added: "We are naturally taking a number of extra security measures."

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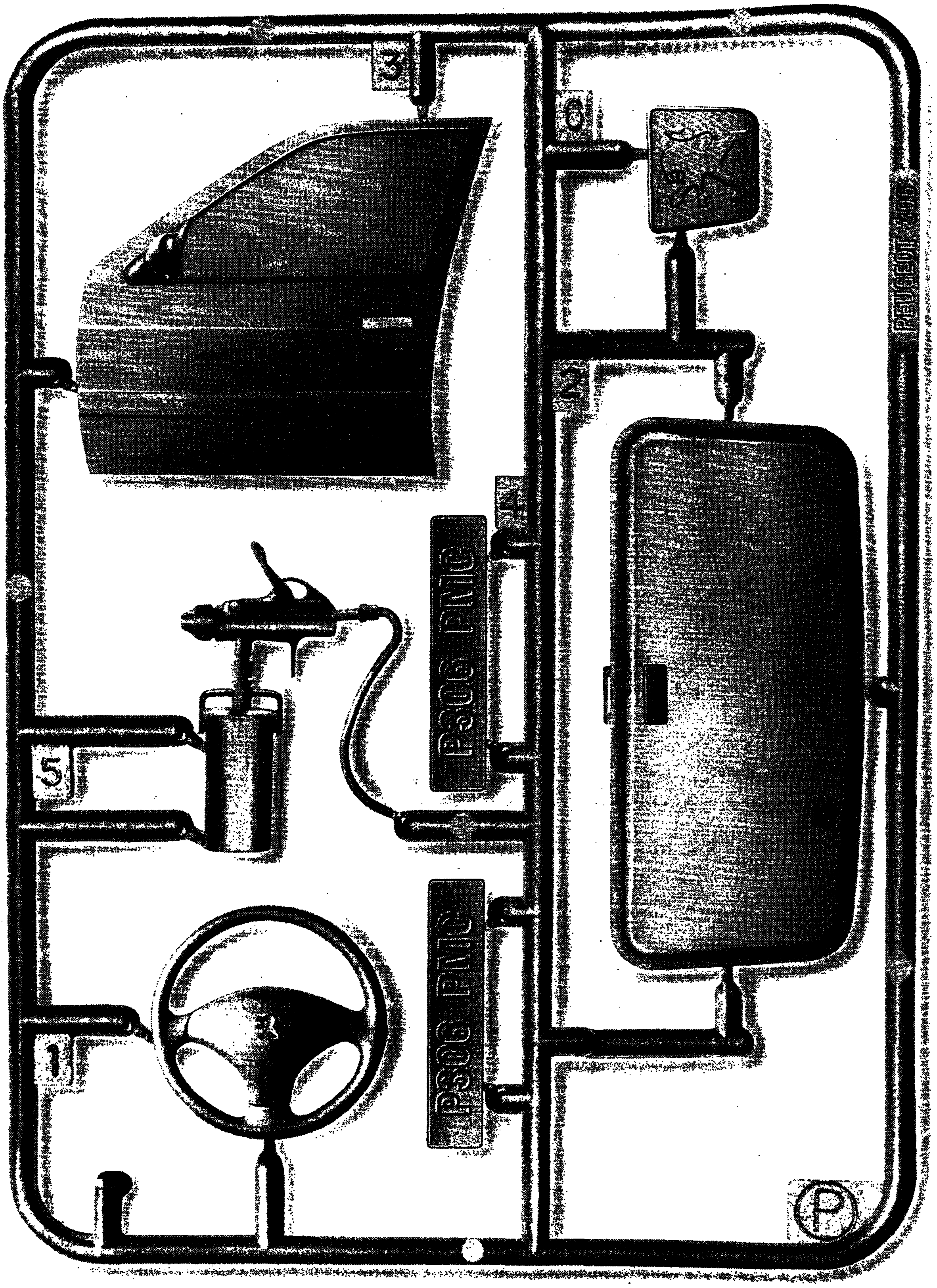

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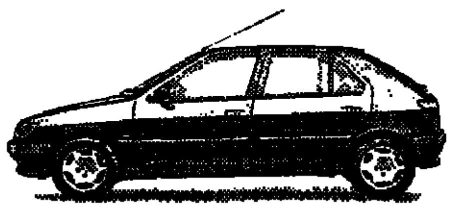


Kathy Botham says sex and drug claims made her life hell

By Tim Jones

HER voice straining with emotion, Kathy Botham yesterday told a High Court jury of the "hell" she had endured as old allegations of sex, drugs and adultery against her husband had resurfaced.

Giving evidence in Ian Botham's libel action against Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain, Mrs Botham told the jury that she had no idea why the issues had been raised.

Asked by Charles Gray, QC, for Botham and his England team-mate Allan Lamb, whether she had enjoyed the case so far, she said: "No. I have found it quite traumatic." She said it took her back to the 1980s when, for five or six years, their marriage was in the spotlight.

"I didn't find it at all pleasant then. In fact, it was hell to live with. I think I went through hell last week as well, especially when I opened the papers the next day."

Mrs Botham said that she was proud of what her husband of 20 years had achieved during his playing career. Botham, she said, had been "fuming" when he read articles suggesting that he cheated at cricket and was a racist.

Lamb's wife, Lindsay, told the court that Lamb had written an article about alleged ball-tampering by the Pakistani team because he wanted the truth to come out. Trembling and tearful, she hit the side of the witness box and said: "Lambie was not motivated by racism or anything like that. Can you imagine how I felt when my six-year-old daughter came home from school and asked 'Mummy, why doesn't Daddy like black people?' "

Referring to an earlier libel action in which her husband was involved, Mrs Lamb said: "I had four days of that and this is another seven days I have been listening to balls."

David Gower, the former England captain, said that he had never considered Botham a racist. He said video footage of Botham during the 1982 Test against Pakistan appeared to show him pushing the ball back into shape with his thumbs, which Gower considered to be legal.

George Carman, QC, opening the case for Imran, said that attempts by his client to offer an olive branch to the two men had been rejected because they had their knives out for him.

It was, Mr Carman told the jury, "a thousand pities that these great warriors of sport could not make their peace and shake hands". But, he said, it was not to be. "I invite you to consider who offered the hand of friendship and who shunned it."

Imran, he said, had offered a golden opportunity of settling the issue by writing a letter to *The Times* making clear that he had never called the plaintiffs racist or accused Botham of cheating. The letter would have said that he had been seriously misquoted in an interview he had given to the magazine *India Today*. "Unhappily his attempts at reconciliation failed."

Mr Carman told the jury that he had engaged in so-called muckraking about Botham's past to show that he had lied publicly when he had denied taking drugs.

Botham and Lamb claim that the *India Today* article called them racist, uneducated and lacking in class and upbringing. Botham is also suing over a story in *The Sun* which he says accused him of ball-tampering. Imran, who denies libel, says his words were taken out of context.

Michael Atherton, the England captain, will miss net practice at Lord's today when the rest of the team prepares for the Test against Pakistan, starting tomorrow.

After attending an early morning engagement at 10 Downing Street, where the Prime Minister will announce government sporting initiatives, Atherton will go to the High Court to give evidence before joining his colleagues.

The hearing continues.

Ian Botham with his wife Kathy, who said yesterday that the case has upset her

Cricket, pages 46, 48

Protesters save Joyce home from demolition

By Audrey Magee

PROTESTS from James Joyce scholars around the world have saved a house in Dublin that was a childhood home of the author.

No 2 Millbourne Avenue, which stands in a large garden in Drumcondra, a northern suburb, was to have been knocked down to make way for flats. After objections from local residents and James Joyce societies, the developers have agreed to spare the building.

Joyce lived there between the ages of 10 and 12, and refers to it in the autobiographical novel *A Portrait of the Artist a Young Man*. The Joyce family originally lived in Bray, about 12 miles south of Dublin, but moved to Drumcondra when they fell into debt. Joyce's mother had 12 children and the youngest, Freddie, was born in the rambling home. They moved again many times.

The building has suffered vandalism since plans to demolish it were first lodged 12 months ago.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

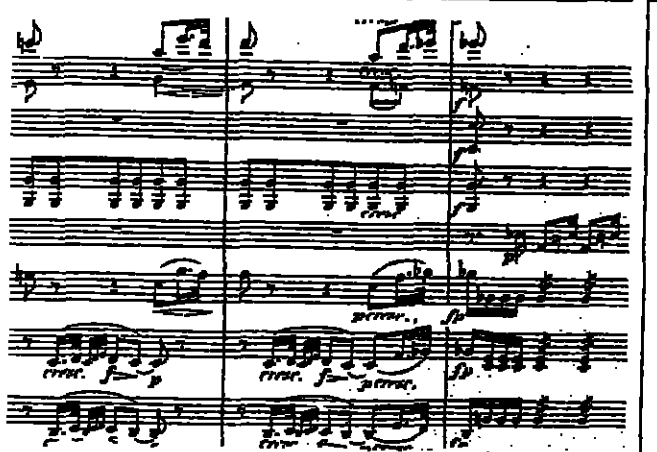
SOMETHING WILD

A fashion safari through summer's coolest looks, in the **Magazine**

PLUS

Weekend, Car 96, Weekend Money, 1015 for young Times readers and **Vision,** the 7-day guide to TV and radio

THE SEVEN-SECTION TIMES IS 40p ON SATURDAY



In bar 14 of the opening scene of Act II of *Fidelio*, far right, fourth line down, the timpani seem to evoke an irregular heartbeat, Dr Cooper says

Beethoven 'set his bad heart to music'

By Nick Nuttall

SOME of Beethoven's greatest music, including the *Eroica* symphony, might have been inspired by a hitherto unknown heart condition brought on by heavy drinking, a cardiologist claims.

Professor Berndt Luderitz, who has studied passages of the composer's music, believes the sound of Beethoven's irregularly beating heart became an important influence, heightened by his deafness. Beethoven (1770-1827) began to lose his hearing in the late 1790s and by 1819 could converse only through a notebook.

Medical researchers who have been studying the composer's autopsy reports have concluded that Beethoven died from kidney failure complicated by liver damage from excessive drinking.

Professor Luderitz, of Bonn University, thinks Beethoven, who wrote striking and varied rhythms, also had a heart condition that he drew on when composing: "We know he was a drinker with a big consumption of punch and wine, and alcohol produces ventricular arrhythmias. Because of his deafness, he perceived his cardiac disorders more intensely and set these cardiac rhythm disturbances to music." He cites Beethoven's piano sonata Opus 81a, *Les Adieux*, whose offbeats might have echoed the heart condition that the composer might have had.

The findings were given credence yesterday by the music historian H.C. Robbins Landon, a leading authority on Beethoven. "It is speculation, but I think this is quite possible. When you are deaf, your heart is one thing you will listen to." He said that *Les Adieux*, written in 1809 for a prince who left Vienna while it was bombarded by the French, was "always stopping and starting. This is a very curious piece; indeed, it might have been the first sign that Beethoven knew something was wrong with him."

Mr Robbins Landon said Beethoven had an array of rhythmic styles. "This is especially the case in the *Eroica* [the Third Symphony] in 1804. You get these odd, offbeat, hammer strokes. If you were running up a bill with a heart problem, this is the kind of thing you might be listening to in your mind's eye."

Beethoven: he used offbeat rhythms

Beethoven's rhythms became more complex later in his composing life, something that might reflect a worsening heart condition.

The heartbeat has always been part of music. Before the invention of the metronome, composers used their pulse-rates to check tempi.

Dr Barry Cooper, a musicologist at Manchester University and author of *Beethoven: The Creative Process*, said Berlioz had used the human heartbeat in his *Symphonie Fantastique*. In Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, the tension is heightened by an insistent rhythm that suggests a disordered heartbeat.

Dr Cooper said it was clear that the heart was also important to Beethoven, and cited "heart-like rhythms" in the dungeon scene that opens Act II of his only opera, *Fidelio*, before Florestan's great aria.

The tempo of some of his songs is 70 beats a minute, the thud of a resting heart.

But Dr Cooper is sceptical about whether Beethoven's music echoes a sick heart or is dominated by heart-related beats: "The heartbeat is a fairly straightforward rhythm so composers will use it even if they are not trying to represent the heart. They might occasionally want to use the beat of the heart because the text refers to the human heart."

Would you have forgotten so quickly if she was your child?

We all saw the images of the Rwandan war in our newspapers and on our television screens: traumatised toddlers, children dazed by the killing they had seen, bewildered at finding themselves alone. We wondered whether we'd ever be able to sleep at night; if we'd ever stop thinking, 'What if that was my child?' One year on, most of us have forgotten. One year on, Bibia's war is not over.

When Bibia was flung onto a truck full of panicking people last year, she screamed for her mum. Having been driven away from the terror and slaughter of the Kibeho Refugee Camp, she realised her mother wasn't there. At *five years old she was alone in the middle of a war.*

It costs an average £90 to reunite a child like Bibia with her family. If just three readers give £30 each we could bring a family back together.

Through its tracing programme, British charity Children's Aid Direct has discovered that Bibia's mother did make it out of Kibeho alive. But her home region is now a place of heavy military activity, and it is unlikely that her mother has been able to return there.

'We need to extend our search,' says David Grubb, Executive Director of Children's Aid Direct, 'but we need money to do this. Will someone out there help us put Bibia back into the arms of the person she loves most in the world – her mother?'

Who is still there for the children?

The cameras have moved on, but many of those children for whom we wept are still there. And so, thank goodness, is the centre for unaccompanied children in Butare. The centre was set up overnight by Children's Aid Direct (formerly Feed the Children (Europe)) in the wake of the Kibeho Refugee Camp massacre.

This week the centre is preparing to take in more children who are being forced back over the border from refugee camps in Burundi.

The centre is there to provide children with food, treatment for their wounds, protection and the chance of some basic education.

Many of the children are under five. The centre's housemothers give love and attention, but each child needs someone of their own to care for them. Children's Aid Direct has now reunited 665 Rwandan children with the people they love. They are still looking for the families of hundreds more children.

Children in the aftermath of war

When Children's Aid Direct was first established (six years ago) as Feed the Children (Europe) it brought humanitarian aid to children in emergencies.

The aid it provides has now evolved to also answer the needs of children in the *aftermath* of war – getting schools and health care going again, training local people to provide children with the support they need to overcome their trauma.

In doing so, the charity is also rekindling the hope of parents, giving them a reason to go on, to rebuild their homes and communities. To reflect this new emphasis, Feed the Children (Europe) has changed its name to Children's Aid Direct.

Are you still there?

Children's Aid Direct's message is clear. 'Children in the aftermath of war still need your compassion,' says David Grubb. 'That doesn't mean saying, "how sad", "poor kid". It means seeing a child's anguish, and doing something. Forgive us if we sound blunt – but it is just too important to beat about the bush. Please, help if you can, today.'

To make your donation call Children's Aid Direct on
0990 600610
or complete and return the form below.

Children in the aftermath of war

- In 1980, six million children were refugees, outside or inside their own country.
- In 1996, that number has grown to 24 million.
- By the year 2000 that number will be 31 million.
- More than 110,000 children were separated from their parents during the war in Rwanda. Children's Aid Direct's tracing programme is reuniting hundreds of families.
- Three out of five children in Sarajevo thought that they would die during the war. Children's Aid Direct is training teachers to provide children with the support they need to overcome their trauma.

**SHOW YOUR COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN LASTS LONGER THAN THE WAR.
MAKE A DONATION TODAY.**

I'M STILL HERE FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

☐ Please use my donation to help reunite a family in Rwanda.

☐ Please use my donation to help children in the aftermath of war, wherever the need is greatest.

☐ Please send me more information on your Children in War campaign.

Thank you.

Here is my donation of:

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*A gift of £250 or more is worth almost an extra third to us under Gift Aid.

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Michael Forsyth wants more emphasis on Scottish successes such as Adam Smith and Robert the Bruce, rather than the heroic failures William Wallace, Mary Queen of Scots and Ally MacLeod's 1978 World Cup football team

Schools urged to shift focus from losers to great Scots

By Shirley English

SCOTTISH history lessons dwell too much on heroic failures and gloss over the nation's great achievements, a government-backed report claims.

Schoolchildren are being taught a distorted version of their country's past which concentrates on defeated romantic figures, such as William Wallace and the Jacobites.

As a result many pupils leave school with a negative view of Scottish history, largely ignorant of the rich legacy of thinkers and inventors of the past 300 years. The interim report by the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum — which advises schools — raises concerns that some children have only a limited understanding of key events. The authors believe part of the problem is that not enough teachers have studied Scottish history, which was viewed as a "second class" subject up until the 1980s.

The view of history as a series of heroic defeats is one that the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, highlighted in April when he criticised the preoccupation with "loser" William Wallace over the more successful Robert the Bruce. The resurgence of interest in all things Scottish, inspired in part by Hollywood's "tartan" movies, has prompted the review which calls for a more balanced curriculum, with more emphasis on the nation's social and cultural achievements.

Up to the age of 14, the subject matter of history lessons is left largely to the judgment of individual teachers. The 37½ hours a year devoted to history tend to focus on topics such as the Second World War and the Jacobite rebellion, the report claims. Because only 35 per cent of pupils choose to take the subject at Standard Grade — the Scottish equivalent of GCSEs — many leave the system with only a sketchy knowledge of their country's past.

At Standard Grade the report highlights some good practice, but suggests that the range of topics may still be too narrow.

David Duncan, secretary to the working group, acknowledges that the focus on "romantic" stories of the past is understandable lower down the school when children may not be able to grasp more complex philosphical ideas. But he said: "Certain topics might be receiving a disproportionate emphasis. That does not mean that events such as the Jacobites or the Viking raids should not be taught, but there needs to be more of a balance between those and other parts of the curriculum."

He claims there is room within the current framework to shift the emphasis to more positive topics, such as the Scottish Enlightenment. During the 18th century philosophers such as Voltaire looked to Edinburgh and great thinkers such as David Hume and Adam Smith for direction. This century Scotland has been responsible for a number of important inventions, such as television and the telephone.

Dr Richard Findlay, history lecturer at the University of Strathclyde, says the review is important because perceptions of the past shape a country's identity. "There is a sort of negative perception of Scottish history, not so much among historians, but the general public.

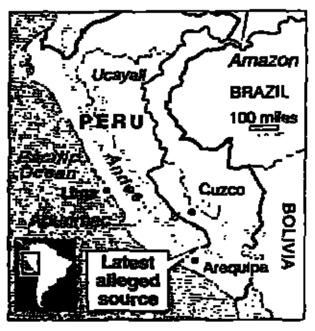
"If you ask the ordinary man in the street what the key events are, he will say Bannockburn, Mary Queen of Scots, the Union, and the Jacobite failure and he'll probably finish off with Argentina 1978 [the World Cup]. The high points don't immediately jump out," Dr Findlay said.

What he calls the "recent renaissance" in historical academic thinking has not yet filtered down to schools and this is something the review group hopes to address through teacher training. "It is not a question of promoting a triumphalist view of Scottish history, it is more to do with gaining a balance between the high and low points."

The group will issue a final report in November.

Explorers claim glacier as true source of Amazon

By Nick Nuttall



THE source of the Amazon, long debated by geographers, is an underground glacier in the southern Peruvian Andes, an international team of scientists claimed yesterday.

A nine-day investigation has pinpointed an icy creek called Apachita crevice, which is 16,958ft above sea level near the city of Arequipa and about 625 miles from the Peruvian capital, Lima.

Opinions differ on the source of the river, which carries a fifth of the world's flowing water into the Atlantic. *Encylopaedia Britannica* puts it at 15,875ft at a small lake called Lauricocha. In 1971 an expedition by the National Geographic Society located the source at the higher Carlauasanta crevice, near the Bolivian border.

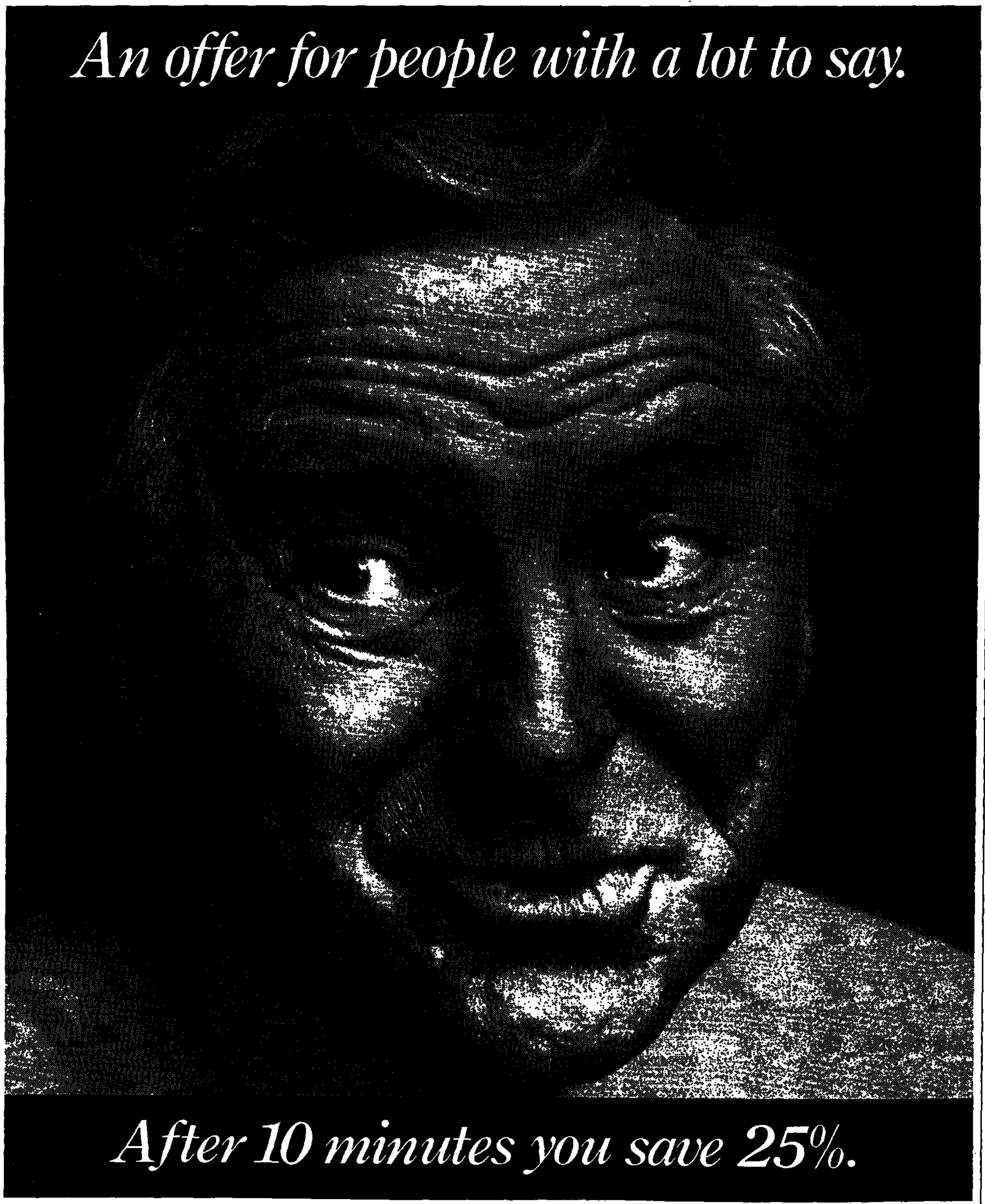
The new source, found by a team led by the Polish explorer and scientist Dr Jacek Palkiewicz, is close to the one identified by the society's team, but a few feet higher.

Yesterday John Hemming, director of the Royal Geographical Society in London and an Amazonian explorer, said the latest source, in one of the remotest parts of the country, was probably the most accurate. He said that the debate focused on how one defined the source of a big river. Some consider the source to be the highest point at which the waters feeding it are located, while others believe it should be the place furthest from the mouth.

Another view points to the river or lake which contributes the most water to the main river, which is why Lake Lauricocha can be cited.

But Dr Hemming added: "Most people would say distance is the one that really matters, in which case the Poles are on to the right one, considering distance from the Atlantic."

He said the site was the headwater of a river called the Apurimac which becomes the Ucayali. It joins with the Marañon to create the Amazon.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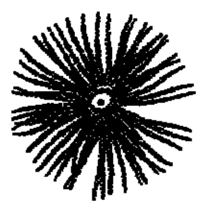
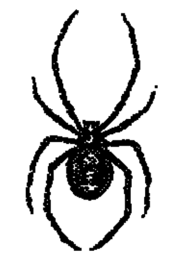


Diadema antillarum
(Long-Spined Urchin)



Latrodectus mactans
(Black Widow Spider)

Muggus thugeri
(Common Hoodlum)

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St Paul's sculptures go abroad for want of a British home

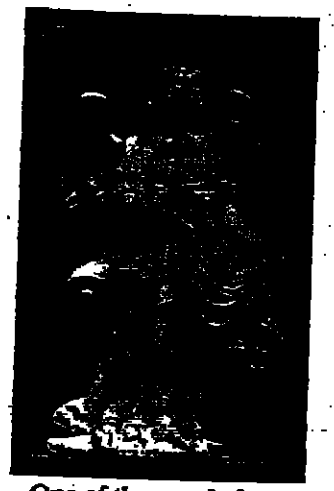
By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

DELICATELY carved marble cherubs and angels with gilded wings that formed part of a magnificent 19th-century high altar at St Paul's Cathedral were exported to America yesterday after attempts to save them for the nation failed.

The sculptures, recognised by clergymen and scholars as an integral part of St Paul's history, will be loaned for ten years to Baker University in Baldwin City, near Kansas City, because the Cathedral has been unable to raise the £740,000 needed to save them. English Heritage also failed to find an appropriate site to take them on loan.

The marble sculptures were among 17 that survived from the white marble reredos designed in the early 1880s by George Frederick Bodley. Part of it was destroyed during the Blitz in 1940.

The marbles are owned by John Brandler, a dealer from Brentwood, Essex. He bought them from the Cathedral in 1978 for what is believed to be a four-figure sum because they had been dismissed as unfashionable 19th-century objects that did not fit Sir Christopher Wren's vision of St Paul's. He is not profiting from the deal with Baker University, but wanted the marbles to be displayed, something that was not possible to arrange in Britain.


One of the angels from St Paul's Cathedral

Yesterday Mr Brandler expressed disbelief that the National Heritage Department" had granted the St Paul's marbles an export licence: "The thing that has annoyed me is that the Government is refusing export licences on the Guercino painting, which has absolutely no core relationship to England. Why aren't they keeping things that are part of England's heritage?"

He added that the loan is costing Baker University £30,000 in transport costs alone: "It appreciates them and knows people will come to see them. Kansas City is falling over itself to have these sculptures. It is putting our so-called Heritage Department to shame."

Canon John Halliburton, the Chancellor of St Paul's, is among those who despair over his predecessors' decision to sell the surviving sections in the 1970s. He wanted to see them restored to the St Paul's collection. However, the Cathedral is struggling to find £300,000 for the conservation of its other 19th-century works.

Julius Bryant, director of museums and collections for English Heritage, had sought a space in one of its properties. He said yesterday: "St Paul's is the right home for them. We were unable to find an appropriate site." None proved suitable, primarily for security reasons: many are "open ruins". He added: "They really need a 19th-century ecclesiastical setting."

Baker University, which boasts one of America's finest collections of bibles, last year paid $1 million for the derelict 130-year-old Sproxton Chapel near Grantham, Lincolnshire, where the father of Baroness Thatcher preached.

ROD WILSON

The Bellevue Special in all its restored glory, with Norman Hart at the wheel. The car, built in 1936, once lapped Brooklands at 108mph

Runabout for the wife is reborn as £40,000 pre-war racer

By Kevin Eason

THE car was little more than a pile of bits and pieces when Norman Hart bought it for £200. But the MG turned out to be one of Britain's most historic racing cars that could now be worth as much as £40,000.

Mr Hart, a lawyer from Durham, only wanted the car to restore as a runabout for his wife, Jennifer. However, once he established its history and realised its value, he bought her a Nissan.

The silver single-seater is a 1936 NA Bellevue Special that once lapped Brooklands at 108mph. It was raced by Wilkie Wilkinson, one of the most famous pre-war drivers. After the war, the car raced at the first meeting held at the Goodwood circuit. Mr Hart suspected that it might have a racing pedigree when he bought it in 1972 and checked the chassis number with the MG Car Club, which authenticated it. Its distinguished pedigree persuaded him to spend eight years and £10,000 on returning it to the condition it was when with Wilkinson was at the wheel.

The MG in action at Goodwood, where it raced at the first meeting

"I spent several years writing all over the world to people who had owned the car and built up a collection of 30 to 40 pre-war photographs of it," he said. "It has never been a road car. I bought it from an elderly chap who was putting a fibreglass body on it. I originally bought it as a second car for my wife, but when I discovered its racing history, I decided to restore it as a racing car."

How much the car is worth could only be tested at auction, but Simon Kidston of Coys, one of the country's top auction houses, was impressed by its history. "The fact that it raced at Brooklands shortly before the track closed in 1939 is significant, as is the association with Wilkinson."

Michael Allison, an expert at the MG Car Club, said yesterday: "A car with this history could be worth as much as £40,000. It is significant because it was one of the very few MGs without a supercharger to top 100mph at Brooklands."

Aldeburgh prefers bird table to Britten statue

By Dalya Alberge

PROPOSALS for a statue of Benjamin Britten in the town where he lived for 30 years have been rejected after councillors said they would rather money be spent on a bird table.

Even a tree would be preferable, according to some councillors in Aldeburgh, although the composer put the seaside town on the map with an annual music festival that draws international audiences.

Britten, who was born in Lowestoft, found inspiration along the coast for some of his greatest works, and took the name Lord Britten of Aldeburgh when he was awarded a life peerage in 1976. He died in the town in the same year and is buried in the cemetery there.

Councillors felt that the community would prefer the money to be spent on something other than a statue. The town clerk, Andrew Harris, said yesterday: "Although Benjamin Britten is a very important person and has done a lot for the town, there are other distinguished people, such as George Crabbe, the poet, and Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson, the first English woman doctor."

The decision has upset Britten's admirers, who say that without him few people would have heard of the seaside town. His nephew, Alan Britten, said: "It's certainly true that Britten doesn't need a statue for us to remember him, but if you are looking for figures that have brought glory to East Anglia, it is hard to think of anyone greater."

Britten: laid to rest in Aldeburgh cemetery

The idea for the statue came from Suffolk Coastal District Council, which owns the cemetery. Mr Harris said: "They wrote to the town council, proposing to do some improvements to include a seated area and possibly a statue — and possibly of Benjamin Britten. Funds would have to be found."

Among suggestions being pursued for a "focal point" in the cemetery are a bird table and a tree. "It is in the hands of councillors to advise me," Mr Harris said. The council meets again on August 12.

"Nobody is anti-Benjamin Britten," Mr Harris added. "The house where he lived has a blue plaque; a window in the church is dedicated to him; his old house is used as a library in memory of him."

John Richardson, of Suffolk Coastal District Council, said: "We were quite surprised at the town council's reaction." A spokeswoman for the Aldeburgh Foundation, which Britten co-founded in the restored Snape Maltings after the war, said: "We didn't know anything about the statue. It is a matter for the town councillors."

Residents were not all in agreement with the councillors' priorities. Robin Fournel, a jeweller, said: "People have asked me if the council has gone mad. I find its attitude incredible."

Ariane crash blamed on fault in software

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A COMPUTER software failure in a guidance system led to the loss of Europe's first Ariane 5 rocket and its payload of four Cluster spacecraft, it was announced yesterday.

The inquiry, launched by the European Space Agency after the doomed maiden flight, has concluded that there was insufficient testing of the guidance software or the flight-control systems which should have detected the error.

Officials have submitted a 14-point plan to avoid another loss. The findings confirm the early suspicions of scientists over the loss on June 4, about 40 seconds after lift-off from Kourou, French Guiana.

The explosion was a big setback for Western Europe's bid to extend its dominance of the lucrative satellite launch market into the 21st century.

The four uninsured Cluster craft, in which Britain had a significant interest, were designed to study the solar wind, the hail of charged particles hitting the earth. These can trigger magnetic storms which disrupt power supplies.

The panel of inquiry concluded that "the failure of Ariane 501 was caused by the complete loss of guidance and altitude information 37 seconds after the start of the main engine ignition sequence".

The inquiry's recommendations include a critical reappraisal of all software and improved testing using real equipment and components rather than reliance solely on simulations.

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Barnsley chop may disappear from menu as repercussions of Brussels warning spread worldwide

Scare over sheep spines may mean ban on historic British speciality

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent, and Diana Thorp

THE Barnsley chop, one of Britain's most celebrated national dishes, may disappear from menus if the EU's proposed ban on sheep offal goes *ahead.*

The inclusion of the spinal cord in the ban would affect traditional cuts which include the backbone such as saddle of lamb, the Barnsley chop and *rosettes, where the spinal cord* is left in place.

But Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said in Brussels yesterday that any ban on the spinal cord was likely to apply only to sheep over 12 months old.

CONSUMERS

Most British lambs are slaughtered at less than a year and the ban would therefore *not* apply. None of the proposed restrictions would apply to lambs under six months old.

The Asda supermarket chain welcomed the proposed measures.

"All of our lamb is new season and under six months old so I understand it would not even come under these regulations," a spokesman said. *Both Asda and Marks* and Spencer said that spinal cord was already removed from their lamb.

Diane McCrea, of the Consumers' Association, urged consumers to await the announcement of new Government guidelines. "Lots of people have been turning to lamb from beef, but they should not panic and should wait to see what the recommendations are."

The proposed restrictions on the sale of sheep's brain and spleen should have little effect on sales here as there is little or no market for these items anyway.

Spleen is not eaten and brain has a tiny market only among some Muslim communities, although the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries warned people in the Outer Hebrides to stop making a traditional dish of sheep's head soup.

The broth, which involves boiling the sheep's head, has been prepared as a delicacy for centuries in the Western Isles and the recipe occurs in many local cook books.

However there have been no recorded cases of CJD in the Outer Hebrides in the wake of the current BSE scare.

A spokesman from the Meat and Livestock Association said 95 per cent of sheep's heads were destroyed in Britain because they have little economic value.

He said all other cuts of lamb, including mince, haggis, shoulder, leg, breast and rack of lamb would not be *affected by such a ban.*

He said few consumers today cook the neck rings, usually used for stewing, or the saddle of lamb, which is rarely sold in shops and used mainly by caterers for roasting.

The main casualty of a ban would be the double loin or Barnsley chops. Dr Richard North, of the Quality Meats Association, said a ban on spinal cord would put an end to the Yorkshire speciality which is actually two chops joined by a piece of backbone.

"It's the customers' favourite chop, and it's certainly my favourite," Dr North said.

"But if the ban comes into operation, that'll be it, it'll go out the window."

Nick Pound, chef and joint owner of the Barnsley restaurant Armstrongs, said the loss of the Barnsley chop would mean the end of one of the country's few regional dishes and would be akin to the loss of the Cumberland sausage or Banbury cake.

"It was named after the Prince Regent ate it at the King's Hotel in Barnsley and it has been popular ever since," Mr Pound said.

But Mr Pound said there the dangers of contracting disease *from a spinal cord would be* minimal as a consumer would have to break down the spine of the chop to get to the spinal cord.

Moyra Fraser, cooking editor of *Good Housekeeping*, said she did not think a ban would panic consumers.

"Not many people in Britain eat lamb brains and as long as any chops have been well butchered and had the spinal column fully removed there *should be no cause for concern,*" she said.

■ A 136-year-old cattle market closed yesterday — the latest victim of the BSE crisis.

Livestock auctioneer Barry *Hawkins sold his last cattle* from the market in King's Lynn, Norfolk, which had been established by his great grandfather in 1860.

It was a sad day for the 58-year-old businessman, who has seen the number of cows passing through his market fall from 80 down to 20 a day following fears of Mad Cow Disease.

"BSE has closed us down. It was a cock-up by the Government. *The number of cattle we* were selling was dropped and so have the prices by 30 per cent," said Mr Hawkins.

"There was no way we could continue. It is very sad. There was a sudden slump after the scare, it wasn't gradual and I could see no light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a very *hard decision. It has been my* way of life for 50 years. It was my father's, my grandfather's and my great-grandfather's.

"I work on a commission basis. Two and two aren't making five. They are making three now.

"If I thought the trend was going to change, I would have stuck with it, but I have got to try and be realistic. I would like to start it up again, but I can't think that this will happen," said Mr Hawkin.

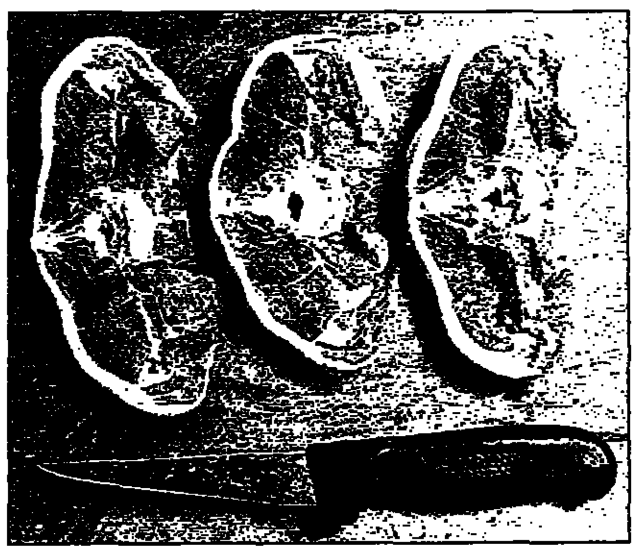
Livestock breeders will now have to take their cattle to market in Norwich and Bury St Edmunds, ending a 136-year association with the town.

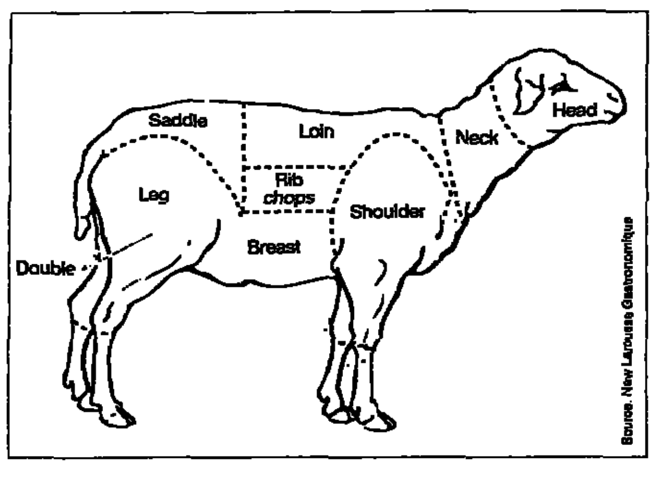
Meanhwhile the New Zealand government said on yesterday it was seeking more detail on European scientific evidence that BSE could infect sheep, but officials doubted whether the link was new.

EU Agriculture Commissioner *Franz Fischler said on* Monday it was possible what looked like cases of the well-known disease scrapie in sheep could in fact be bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE.

ROB HOWARTH

Watching the last cattle sold at Hawkins's in King's Lynn, a family auctioneers closing after four generations


The Barnsley chop, favoured by the Prince Regent



Source: New Larousse Gastronomique

LAMB PRODUCTS

Main cuts of lamb: neck, shoulder, loin, chump, chump chops, leg, breast, baron, saddle.
Poorer cuts: *mince.*
Mechanically recovered meat (MRM): edible tissues not stripped from bones to same extent as cows, but vegetarian groups claim low-quality lamb MRM is found in pies. Also in beef and pork sausages, burgers and pet food.
Brains: sheep's brains are French delicacy.
Bones: fertiliser. Use in feeds stopped in April.
Keratin: protein in horns and hooves used in shampoos.
Elastin: protein uniting muscle fibres used in moisturisers.
Lanolin: fat extracted from sheep's wool.
Cholecalciferol (D3): vitamin derived from lanolin.
Gelatin: mostly from cows, some may come from sheep.

Market prices fall by 20% in one day

FARMERS

By Michael Hornsby

BRITAIN'S 90,000 sheep farmers were bracing themselves yesterday *for a slump in* consumer demand after the disclosure that some sheep products are to be banned because of fears they may be infected with "mad cow" disease.

Up to now the sheep industry, which earns farmers some £1.2 billion a year in domestic sales and a further £280 million in exports, has been one of the beneficiaries of the beef crisis as consumers have switched to other meats.

The first signs of panic were reflected yesterday in falls of up to 20 per cent in sheep prices at livestock markets, which knocked up to £8 off the price of a lamb.

Prices fell to about 95p a kg compared with about 115p this time last week, wiping out much of the gains lamb prices have made since the BSE crisis broke in March. Farmers were yesterday hoping that consumers would not *panic and would see the ban* as a purely precautionary measure against a theoretical risk.

Ieuan Lewis, who keeps 500 breeding ewes near Llangollen, North Wales, said: "I hope people are not going to overreact. Even if there is only a theoretical risk of spongiform encephalopathy getting into sheep, I hope they will accept that it is better to be upfront and take the necessary precautions."

He added: "Recently our lamb prices have greatly improved on the back of the fall in the beef trade. Last week I sold 51 lambs for 117p a kilogram. This time last year I was getting less than 100p."

The higher income from his *sheep has helped to offset the* loss Mr Lewis has been suffering on his beef cattle. Cattle prices are about £100 an animal lower than a year ago and Mr Lewis is running up big feed bills as he keeps cattle back on his farm in hope of market improvement.

Colin Maclean, director-general of the Meat and Livestock Commission, said: "About 95 per cent of sheep carcasses already have their head removed at the abattoir and the spleen is not used. So these measures should have virtually no impact on our industry.

"Although there is no evidence of spongiform encephalopathy in sheep, and although scrapie has been *around in sheep for 250 years* and never been found to present any hazard to humans, it is always better to err on the side of caution."

But Anthony Gibson, the National Farmers' Union's regional director for southwest England, criticised Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, for proposing the ban. "It is completely unjustified," he said. "Scrapie has been studied for centuries and there is absolutely no evidence of any link to BSE."

Marks & Spencer said there had been no change in the price of lamb since the BSE scare. However, it has introduced a lamb special this week which has reduced the prices.

Safeway said demand increased significantly after the BSE scare, but had now decreased and stabilised at a level still at higher than before BSE.

Organic lamb has decreased in price since the BSE scare. Tim Finney, an organic meat wholesaler from Swindon Butcher, said the price of lamb had gone down from £3.30 per kg to £2.70. "If the lamb price collapses we will ignore it. It might even increase our price because people appreciate we farm in a completely different way."

Fears were aroused by infection during lab test

THE move to ban certain lamb and goat products follows research showing that "mad cow" disease can be transmitted artificially to sheep in laboratory tests (Michael Hornsby writes).

Scientists disagree about the significance of the finding, but accept that it may be right to err on the side of caution in removing even the most theoretical threat to human health *from the eating of lamb.*

Scrapie — spongiform encephalopathy in sheep — has not hitherto caused humans any apparent harm. The brain condition Creutzfeldt-*Jakob Disease, affects one in* a million people, even in countries with no scrapie.

What is worring scientists is that sheep might have acquired a new strain of scrapie from eating meat and bone meal derived from cattle remains infected with BSE, reversing the process by which cattle are thought to have contracted the disease.

John Bourne, director of the Institute of Animal Health at Compton, Berkshire, said: "If BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] has got into sheep, we cannot be absolutely *100 per cent sure that it will* behave identically to scrapie and pose no risk to humans."

Research by the institute in 1993 found that BSE could be transmitted to sheep by feeding them infected brain tissue from cattle or by injecting it into their brains. Infectivity was detected in the brains and spleen.More recent work by

SCIENTISTS

the institute, published last month in *The Veterinary Record*, discovered that spleen tissue from these artifi*cially infected sheep produce* a pattern of disease when injected into laboratory mice that is similar to that caused by BSE material from cattle.

"It has to be emphasised *that we have been unable so* far to detect any sign of a new strain of scrapie that might indicate that BSE has got into sheep in the field." Professor Bourne said. "But it may be *that* we have not been looking hard enough."

Scientists have transmitted BSE orally to goats and mice as well as to sheep. Pigs have been infected, but only by in*jection into the brain.* Chickens are resistant to infection either orally or by inoculation.

The Government's spongiform encephalopathy advisory committee (SEAC) is recommending that sheep brain and spleen be excluded *from the human food chain.*

In practice, no lamb spleen is eaten anyway and 95 per cent of sheep carcasses already have their heads removed at the abattoir. In *Britain, only some Muslims* are *thought to* eat sheep's brain. Scientists see no danger in the muscle meat of sheep or in liver and kidney.

Some European scientists *want spinal cord covered by* the ban as well, at any rate in *sheep older than 12 months,* though their British colleagues are not entirely convinced. Such a ban could affect some traditional cuts.

Britain has banned feeding meat and bone meal to sheep since July 1988. Although farmers used to give breeding ewes meat and bone meal as a protein supplement, most lambs are fed almost entirely on grass. Exposure to infected feed would thus have been much less than in cattle.

Francis Anthony, past pres*ident of the British Veterinary* Association, said: "This seems to be carrying the precautionary principle to ridiculous lengths. Sheep deliberately infected with BSE do not itch *and rub themselves* against fence posts, as classical cases of scrapie. If sheep were suffering from a new kind of scrapie, we would have noticed."

Anthony: said caution was going too far

French gourmands face lean times

By Ben Macintyre

REACTION

FRENCH butchers reported a sharp drop in the price of lamb yesterday after European officials announced plans to ban certain offal from sheep, goat and deer.

Three weeks ago, the French Government announced a ban on "all sales of the central nervous system of ruminants", including brains and spinal columns of cows, sheep and goats, after recommendations from scientists. The spleen, thymus (used in *ris de veau* or sweetbreads), intestines and tonsils are also banned from human consumption if the animal was born before July 1991.

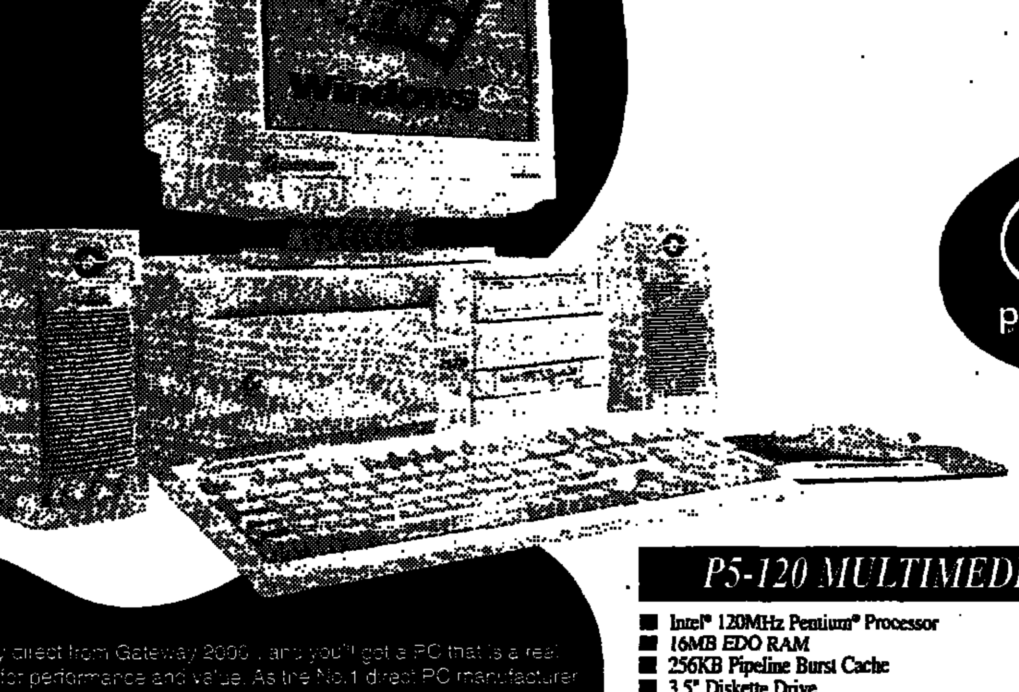
The government bans deprived France of yet more culinary delicacies and added to the meat industry's economic nightmare. The Government urged that its precautionary measures be extended throughout the EU and the Agriculture Ministry yesterday commended the attitude of Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner.

Le Monde reported yesterday that at Rungis food market outside Paris the price of lamb, which had climbed during the initial BSE crisis, had dropped by a third in the last few weeks.

With *cervelle d'agneau* (lamb's brains) joining the beloved national dish of *tête de veau* (calf's head) on the banned list. French gourmands with exotic tastes are facing increasingly lean times.

"Goats and sheep gone to pot," declared a headline in *France-Soir* yesterday. "Is this the end of roast kid?" The *newspaper noted that* recipes for sheep and goat offal can be found in any book of traditional French cuisine, adding: "The haggis, celebrated but hard to find in France, *can also* perhaps be considered a dish in danger — even when one is tipsy from the tastiest whiskies."

"If in doubt, abstain," declared *France-Soir*, advice *that* could hardly be further removed from French gastronomic tradition and an indication of the deep effects of "mad cow" disease.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Major faces long summer on the defensive

The real difference between the parties on Europe is that Tony Blair could lead his party into a single currency, if he decided there were economic advantages for Britain, whereas John Major cannot, even if he wanted to do so. That was vividly shown by the contrast at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday between Mr Blair's contemptuous dismissal of an anti-single currency pamphlet from some left-wing Labour MPs in the "People's Europe Campaign" and Mr Major's evident discomfort at the reminder of his party's divisions.

Mr Major's stock response is to argue that Labour is "split on the issue from top to bottom". Of course, Labour is divided over Europe, but its differences are not as significant as the Tories'. At varying times about 50 Labour MPs have voted against Maastricht or expressed reservations about a single currency, though the hard core is not as large. They cannot really be compared with the smaller number of Tory sceptics who have voted against the Government over the past four years since their total has been squeezed by tight whipping, while Labour MPs effectively enjoyed a free vote.

More important is that in the Tory party, the young and ambitious — including candidates replacing retiring MPs — tend to be on the sceptic rather than the pro-European side. By contrast, eager young Labour MPs tend to be pro-European. Some of the backers of "People's Europe" are veteran opponents of the EU, such as Peter Shore and Nigel Spearing, who will leave the Commons at the election. While Tory pro-Europeans are battling against the tide in their party, Labour pro-Europeans are swimming with it.

Many Labour MPs and spokesmen have serious doubts about a single currency. They would have to be convinced that joining would not involve draconian spending and tax measures. But there is nothing to justify the alarmist and ill-informed tone of yesterday's paper from "People's Europe" with its false claim that public spending would have to be cut by £18 billion to meet the public borrowing guidelines. Even after the latest revision upwards by the Treasury of its borrowing forecasts, the British Budget deficit should fall to within the target level in 1997-98.

Mr Blair has been deliberately opaque about the precise criteria for joining a single currency. But if the economic conditions are satisified — a big enough if in itself — he should be able to override internal political opposition, as he has in the past. That would be his instinct. And the recent mini-manifesto hardened the pledge to seek the consent of the people through "either an election or a referendum". Labour would probably be backed by the Liberal Democrats and even possibly a small number of Tory pro-Europeans.

By contrast, the Tories are stuck in their laboriously negotiated compromise with no room for manoeuvre this side of the election. In that respect, David Heathcoat-Amory's resignation has not helped the sceptics, since it has produced statements from Mr Major and other senior ministers restating the current, all-options-open line. It would now be very hard to change the policy.

Despite being harried by the sceptic press, Kenneth Clarke has entrenched his position in the Treasury with the appointment to the exotic post of "Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury" of Phillip Oppenheim, who was his parliamentary private secretary before he became a junior minister. Apart from the promotion of David Willetts within the Cabinet Office, the rest of last night's reshuffle is of interest only within Westminster, and even there not for long.

The shape of the Major Government remains as before: the factions are carefully balanced and loyalists are rewarded. Mr Major will start the long summer recess on the defensive, as so often, while, despite internal criticism, Mr Blair remains unshaken as the self-confident frontrunner.

PETER RIDDELL

Euro-sceptic Labour MPs harangued by angry colleague

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

A LABOUR press conference descended into farce yesterday when Euro-sceptics and Euro-enthusiasts became embroiled in a slanging match.

Five Labour Euro-sceptics had begun launching a controversial campaign to persuade Tony Blair to rule out joining a single currency when another Labour backbencher accused them of disloyalty to the party.

Denis MacShane, a pro-European Labour MP and Blair loyalist, had slipped into the back of the Westminster press conference to hand out leaflets calling for co-operation with Brussels. First he just shook his head and muttered that the Euro-sceptics were bad eggs. But suddenly he lost his patience and spent nearly quarter of an hour haranguing his colleagues.

The outbreak of open warfare on Europe has embarrassed party leaders, who were trying to capitalise on the resignation of David Heathcoat-Amory and Tory splits over a single currency. They fear that the squabble makes Labour look even more divided than the Tories. "A feat we thought was almost impossible," one Labour aide said.

Mr MacShane was furious when the Euro-sceptic Labour MPs warned Mr Blair that he would face "turmoil" in his first term if he went ahead with joining a single currency. He said: "On the day the Tories expose their hopeless divisions over Europe it is unbelievable that a group of Labour MPs should seek to open up old wars that we saw in the 1970s and 1980s."

The Euro-sceptics warned the party that it would never be able to find £18 billion of public spending cuts, which they believe would be necessary to meet the tough entry rules to a single currency. They also told Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, that he would be out of a job if Britain surrendered power over interest rates to the European Central Bank.

Diane Abbott, a member of Labour's national executive, said: "Someone talked about turmoil. You will get turmoil if Gordon Brown as Chancellor in a Labour Government has to make £18 billion worth of spending cuts and has to give way to the European bankers. He might as well put a notice on his door saying Gone Away."

The Labour leftwingers say that they have the backing of more than 50 backbenchers for a party pledge in the manifesto against a single currency. They also launched a pamphlet, *The Single Currency — Axing Labour's Programme*, which sets out the socialist case against Britain's entry into monetary union under the conditions imposed by the Maastricht treaty.

Denzil Davies, a former Treasury minister, made it clear that he would oppose a Blair government on the question of a single currency. He said that the cost of joining was equivalent to closing down half of all the hospital trusts or two thirds of secondary schools.

"I confess to the old-fashioned belief that democratic governments which have the will can, and should, seek to influence events and should not surrender economic power to global markets and central banks," he said.

Alan Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, said: "You cannot sell this to the public, and increasingly a Labour government would find it cannot sell it to the party or Parliament."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said: "The Labour pamphlet blows a gaping hole in new Labour's pretence of unity. It reaffirms that a quarter of all Labour MPs are on a collision course with Mr Blair and Mr Brown.

"The Labour leadership all voted in 1993 to force Britain into a single currency, regardless of the circumstances, by opposing our Maastricht opt-out."

Mr Major told Mr Blair in the Commons: "Your party is split on the issue from top to bottom." Mr Blair, asked by Mr Major whether he agreed with the Labour pamphlet, said: "No, I don't agree with it." Later Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, tried to play down differences within the party on Europe insisting that, unlike the Tories, most Labour Euro-sceptics wanted to remain within the EU.

Letters, page 17

New Tory rebel argues his case

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory Party's newest backbencher set out his case yesterday against a single European currency.

David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster-General on Monday, argued that economic and monetary union would involve huge risks and would court disaster. Sitting uneasily in his new role as backbench rebel, he said that his decision to resign had been "extremely difficult and traumatic" but he needed the freedom to speak out. He challenged Kenneth Clarke to put the case for a single currency but sidestepped questions about whether the Chancellor should resign.

Presenting his pamphlet, *A Single European Currency. Why the United Kingdom Must say No*, he argued that within a single currency, the EU would need a much larger budget to try to compensate for changes and shocks affecting economies within the currency area. "This would be several times larger than the present budget, and it would be under central control. It would present a huge step towards a federal European state, which many people do not want."

He insisted that the Government's present policy of neither ruling in nor ruling out a single currency was untenable as the public had a right to know where the main parties stood before the general election. "The United Kingdom has to decide whether to join next year. Between now and then there will be a general election. I think the public are entitled to know what is our present stand on this issue."

Asked about Mr Clarke he said: "I think he has been a successful Chancellor and, in particular, I have admired the way that he has been a better judge of interest rate changes than the Bank of England. So there is something of an irony because he apparently wishes to give control of interest rates to a bank in Frankfurt."

The pamphlet, published by the Bruges Group, argues that monetary union could not deal with the differences, divergencies and cyclical variations in the European economies. "A single currency will have dire economic consequences which will create a new division of Europe," it says.

Resignation hailed as turning point

PRO-EUROPEAN Tory MPs hailed David Heathcoat-Amory's resignation as a turning point in their battle to convince John Major to keep open the option of joining a single currency (Andrew Pierce writes).

They heaped praise on the Prime Minister for standing against Mr Heathcoat-Amory's demands for a commitment against joining monetary union as a price for remaining in the Government.

Tory pro-Europeans led by Edwina Currie, MP for South Derbyshire, dimissed reports that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had been more isolated by the departure of his Treasury Minister. At a press conference of the European Movement, she said that Mr Heathcote-Amory's failure to sway Mr Major showed that the Prime Minister was digging in his heels. She added: "The Euro-sceptics are in retreat."

Quentin Davies, Tory MP for Stamford and Spalding and vice-chairman of the European Movement, said: "The Euro-sceptics are pretty desperate and have seriously underestimated the Prime Minister." He accused Mr Heathcoat-Amory of "an extraordinary attempt to railroad Number 10" into changing policy and of being naive to believe he could succeed.

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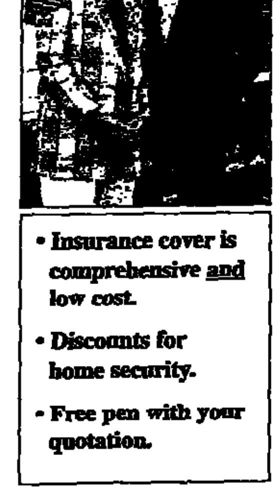

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Blair promises councils power on a tight budget

BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

Blair: called for greater efficiency

LOCAL authorities can expect more powers but no extra money under a Labour government, Tony Blair told a subdued audience of councillors in London yesterday.

Calling for a new relationship between central and local government, Mr Blair promised the 600 delegates from all parties and counties that he would allow them greater autonomy but warned them that they would need to stay within a tight budget.

"The future of local councils will not be based on spending an increased share of the national cake but on improved efficiency and ensuring that every council sees its aim as matching the performance of the best," he said. "A Labour government will be obliged to keep a tight control of our public finances, to keep interest rates and inflation low."

The speech was his first comprehensive policy statement on local government. His audience was the assembly of the new Local Government Association, which will combine the work of the three present council associations from next year.

Mr Blair agreed that the centrally imposed cap on council budgets should go, but said that a Labour government would protect the public from excessive increases. He won rare applause when he promised to allow money raised from council house sales to be spent on new building projects. But this would be done only "on a phased basis".

His commitment to end the "inflexible, bureaucratic and inefficient" system of compulsory competitive tendering was popular. However, councils would not be allowed to award contracts to in-house departments for ideological reasons if a service could be provided more efficiently by the private sector.

"Competition is fine provided it doesn't lead to diminishing wages and conditions of the people who work for us." Councils would therefore be allowed more freedom to pick contractors but if they made a bad choice his government would intervene.

There was mild heckling when he said he believed that there was a strong case for directly elected mayors. Councillors might not like the idea, but it was highly popular with the public.

New methods of choosing democratic leadership were part of his aim of "reinventing" local government. "The future must lie in the centre allowing localities to have more power, to encourage new initiatives by permitting councils to introduce pilot schemes and for localities in turn to understand that they have to use their power with prudence and responsibility."

Sir Jeremy Beecham, the Newcastle Labour councillor who chaired the meeting, was not surprised to hear there would be no bonanza under a Labour government. "We were not expecting blank cheques," he said.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY In the Commons: summer adjournment debate; backbench debates; questions to education and employment ministers; Education Bill; School Inspections Bill; Deer (Scotland) Bill; accelerated slaughter programme; Draft Code of Conduct for MPs; Central Railway Order.

In the Lords: various orders and regulations followed by report on a European Monetary Union of "ins" and "outs".

Business rates cut examined by Tories

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR signalled his support yesterday for reforms of the business rate that could form part of the Tories' general election manifesto.

Evidence from the Federation of Small Businesses has convinced the Prime Minister of the need to reduce the uniform business rate, which is set by central government. Under plans being considered by the Downing Street policy unit, local authorities would be able to reduce their rates to try to generate employment.

Mr Major, in a foreword to a pamphlet published by the Conservative Political Centre, said: "Lifting the burden on smaller businesses is at the heart of the Conservatives' policy for promoting enterprise and job creation."

The pamphlet, written by Bernard Jenkin, Tory MP for Colchester North, has been published as valuation offices up and down the country struggle to cope with a backlog of thousands of appeals against the uniform business rate. Many companies have gone into liquidation before their appeal can be heard. Mr Jenkin advocates a banded scheme based on rateable values with discounts for smaller premises.

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Crash jet's wing shows trace of rare explosive

From James Bone in New York

INVESTIGATORS scrambled yesterday to confirm a preliminary test that showed traces of a rare explosive on a piece of pockmarked wreckage of TWA Flight 800. At the same time, divers found dozens more bodies entombed in the fuselage on the seabed in the crash area off Long Island.

An initial test on a trailing section of wing from near the plane's baggage compartment yielded the first evidence that the New York-Paris flight last Wednesday might have been blown out of the sky by a bomb or missile.

A so-called Egis scanner, a sensor that uses gas chromatography to detect the vapour emanating from plastic explosives, made what was described as a "borderline positive reading". Officials said the substance, which they did not name, was not a common explosive, such as dynamite, C4 or Semtex. One source was quoted as saying that federal investigators had seen traces of it only once before.

That the affected wreckage came from the underside of the wing suggests a bomb could have been stowed in the baggage compartment. The piece was pockmarked in a way consistent with damage from an explosive device.

A second test with another piece of field equipment, however, proved negative. The fragment and other items have been sent to the FBI's main crime laboratory at Quantico, Virginia, for further examination.

Further forensic science evidence is expected when divers raise large chunks of the Boeing 747 from the seabed, more than 100ft below the surface. Searchers have identified a 500-yard trail of wreckage containing hundreds of pieces. Among them is a 60ft by 30ft section of fuselage thought to hold some 40 bodies. Officials said the fuselage might also be blocking the locating signal emitted by the plane's two black box recorders.

The first salvage operation goal was to recover as many of the 230 victims' bodies as possible. Only then did the Coast Guard and Navy plan to start hoisting wreckage to the surface.

The 225ft *USS Grasp*, a US Navy salvage vessel carrying a small submarine with a robot arm, arrived on the scene overnight to help.

Meanwhile, FBI agents investigating a possible terrorist plot fanned out to interview members of the Arab communities in Brooklyn and Jersey City and questioned boatyard workers along the Long Island shore. Agents have taken samples from boats in an apparent attempt to find any evidence that a missile had been fired.

Investigators thought they had got a break when one boatyard reported renting a mooring to two men on the night of the crash who never returned to reclaim their $66 (£43) deposit.

But the men, both from the area, were later identified. They said their boat had not fitted into the mooring.

One woman comforts another at Monday's beach memorial service on Fire Island for Flight 800's victims

Anti-terror talks held on day of disaster

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

AMERICA'S airline overseers convened only hours before the disaster to consider European and Middle Eastern security measures for countering the threat of terrorism at US airports.

Less than 12 hours before the crash, a Federal Aviation Administration panel was convened to conduct a comprehensive review of airport security in the wake of the 1988 disaster at Lockerbie. The advisory committee, which included FBI, Secret Service, Pentagon and State Department officials, is now facing urgent demands to issue a report which could lead to swift legislation.

Although the committee is to report to the FAA by October 15, it seems likely that Wednesday's crash will prompt a more rapid reaction. Victims of Pan Am 103, the group created after the Lockerbie bombing, is also involved in the committee.

Officials say they are considering a tighter security "baseline" that may include new bomb detection equipment, criminal checks for employees and requirements that passengers arrive much earlier at airports for screening. Better techniques for profiling terrorists, sealing aircraft and airport terminals and new fixtures to detect explosives in luggage and cargo areas are also under review.

The FAA is also contemplating the introduction of a table enabling passengers to judge airlines' safety standards.

☐ **New York:** The judge hearing the case against Ramzi Yousef, charged with plotting to bomb US airliners, said he was considering whether coverage of the disaster obliged him to declare a mistrial.

Republicans urge Dole to embrace tax cut

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

TOP Republican leaders held an unprecedented conference on Capitol Hill last night to push Bob Dole's flailing presidential campaign in the right direction and avoid the possibility of a Clinton landslide in November that many believe could surrender Congress to the Democrats.

The meeting, which was attended by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, Dick Armey, the House majority leader, and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, was being held ostensibly to demonstrate a united commitment to tax reform, lower tax rates and economic growth. Behind the scenes, however, the meeting was aimed at convincing Mr Dole that he should recognise the mistakes made over the past year and embrace a tax reduction that might yet help to bring about President Clinton's departure from the White House.

The latest *USA Today*/CNN poll published yesterday gave Mr Clinton a 20-point lead over his challenger with most Americans believing the President could handle every issue better than Mr Dole or Ross Perot, the billionaire Texan and founder of the Reform Party.

Mr Dole is said to be considering a tax cut as the centrepiece of a forthcoming economic plan which he is expected to unveil before the Republican convention in San Diego next month. The two leading options under consideration are a substantial cut in taxes across the board or a reversal of two previous rate increases imposed in 1990 and 1993.

Many conservatives have been promoting the idea of a sweeping tax cut to spur economic growth and seize the voters' imaginations as Ronald Reagan did. They say a 15 per cent reduction would have greater political impact than any repeal.

> ‘We want to get the country focused on the economic debate’

Traditional deficit hawks have issued a warning, however, that Mr Dole could jeopardise Republican attempts to balance the budget, a theme he supported throughout his long Senate career and one he has promised to conclude by 2002.

Some advisers expect him to compromise by proposing a smaller tax cut, of perhaps 10 per cent, or an unspecified reduction to produce a flatter and fairer tax system. This tactic is favoured by many in the party, including Jack Kemp, the former Housing Secretary, and Steve Forbes, Mr Dole's rival in the primaries.

The organisers of the Capitol Hill meeting were quick to sidestep any suggestion that it had been convened to energise the Dole campaign. "We want to get the country focused on the importance of the debate that will take place this autumn," said Connie Mack, the Florida senator. "That debate is about the performance of the economy and the failure of the Clinton Administration to produce a strong economy."

Despite his earlier reluctance to cut taxes and his characteristic inability to take advice from his colleagues, it appeared yesterday that Mr Dole was taking seriously the views of his fellow Republicans.

Several campaign staffers were attending the meeting last night and, for his part, Mr Dole is scheduled to give a critical speech about Mr Clinton's economic policy later this week. The Republicans are particularly keen to promote the unity of message that has been so lacking in recent weeks when Mr Dole has attacked the National Rifle Association, the tobacco industry and a distinguished Republican former surgeon-general.

Fathers face 'wanted' list

Washington: American parents who refuse to pay child support could soon find themselves on "Wanted" posters in post offices and on the Internet.

President Clinton announced the action to crack down on a "moral outrage and social disaster" during a campaign swing through California. If all the defaulters met their legal responsibilities, the Government could move 800,000 women and children off the welfare registers, he said.

It was a cheap but popular proposal for the president in an election year, one that is likely to bolster his standing among women. Most delinquent parents are fathers. "If you don't pay, we will track you down," Mr Clinton said.

President flees mob amid fears of coup in Burundi

By Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent, and James Bone in New York

ANGRY stone-throwing Tutsi mourners yesterday drove Burundi's presidential helicopter away from the funeral of 312 fellow tribesmen who had been massacred by Hutus at the weekend.

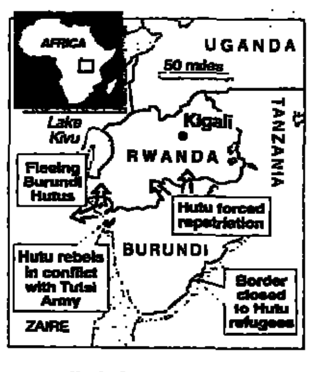
President Ntibantaganya's helicopter veered sharply away as the stones rattled against its fuselage and hurried him back to Bujumbura, thwarting his oft-repeated wish to bring the embattled ethnic groups together at times of "national tragedy".

In New York yesterday, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, gave warning of an impending coup in Burundi and appealed to the Security Council in a letter to press ahead with contingency planning for a multinational force that could intervene in the country. "Rumours of an impending coup d'etat are widespread, while demonstrations in Bujumbura have become increasingly militant," Dr Boutros Ghali wrote, adding: "Tutsi youth groups have openly demanded admission to the ranks of the army in order to fight Hutu rebels."

Earlier, in the wake of the massacre and defying protests from the United Nations, the Burundi Government vowed to expel 85,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees to Rwanda by next week. So far 20,000 of the refugees have been sent back by Burundi's Tutsi army, but Paul Stromberg, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, was reported yesterday to have said that Burundi has agreed to a temporary halt in the expulsions.

This, however, was contradicted by Patrick Mzaimhaka, Burundi's Rehabilitation Minister, who said that he was not worried by UNHCR protests over the expulsions. "We will continue the repatriation exercise. We expect 50,000 refugees back home by the weekend and we should empty all the camps by next week," he said.

Rwanda's Hutu majority fled from advancing Tutsi rebels to refugee camps in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania, where they have organised incursions into Rwanda, now controlled by a Tutsi Government.



But the main motivation behind the expulsion of the Rwandan Hutus from northern Burundi is that the Hutu diaspora has also supplied arms and training to Burundi's Hutu rebel groups. "There is little real sympathy for the expelled Rwandan Hutus because of what they did in 1994. This is a sign that the Burundian Army is trying to regain control of the north of the country," said an aid worker in Bujumbura.

Burundi's army has hotly resisted calls from its Hutu President and Tutsi Prime Minister for an international peace-keeping force to put an end to the nightmarish cycle of ethnic massacres in Burundi which are claiming an average of 100 lives a day.

Since the murder of Burundi's first Hutu President by the army in 1993, at least 150,000 people have perished in an endless spiral of slaughter that claims women and children as its main victims.

In singling out Rwanda's Hutu refugees in their camps in northern Burundi, the army has chosen to strike at the softest target. It has been unable to stem a rising tide of violence in Cibitoke province to the west, where Burundian Hutus have been operating from bases in Zaire with the support of their Rwandan cousins.

The expelled refugees face a gruelling half day drive through swamps across bumpy tracks to Rwanda, where they can expect to be screened by the Rwandan authorities searching for men and women who took part in the 1994 genocide. Those arrested can expect to be jailed in appalling conditions in prisons already housing 60,000 other suspects.

The Burundian Government's rejection of UN condemnation of the forced repatriation has caused near panic among aid agencies and the UNHCR, which fears that Tanzania and Zaire may take similar action against Rwanda's Hutus who have caused an environmental catastrophe in Tanzania and have turned eastern Zaire into a lawless no-go area.

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'Oprahlympics' turn sport into soap to win US women viewers

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

IN COVERING the Olympics for American television, NBC has decided it is the drama that matters, not the sports.

The network does not bother with the results or even cover some of the events attracting the biggest crowds, such as soccer. Instead, it runs "up-close and personal" profiles of the private lives of competitors and how they strove to reach Atlanta. The outcome could more

[redacted]

appropriately be called the "Oprahlympics" — after TV chat show host Oprah Winfrey.

NBC has a compelling reason for turning the Games into soap opera: women. The network wants the feminine factor, not just testosterone. A survey convinced programmers they could persuade women, who tend to shun TV sport, that the Olympics were worth watching if human-interest was on the agenda.

NBC has 140 competitor profiles "in the can", and the strategy is working. Women viewers are up by 30 per cent.

Dick Ebersol, president of NBC sports, was candid about his motives: "People want to see the athletes' struggle, their survival against amazing odds and their subsequent moment of victory or, sadly often times, their agonising moment of defeat."

But employing tabloid techniques to drive up viewing numbers comes from bitter experience. A news-driven approach in 1988 for Seoul led to poor ratings and in Barcelona in 1992 NBC lost $100 million (£65 million) by the sports crowded out of prime time on three pay channels.

For Atlanta, NBC has paid $456 million (£300 million) for the US rights. By promising to deliver a family audience, the network has collected $675 million from advertisers, some paying half a million dollars for 30 seconds. As Mr Ebersol admitted: "You can't do that if you put on boxing."

With NBC, it is impossible to know when events on screen are live or taped. That would detract from their dramatic value, said Mr Ebersol. Visitors from overseas find the coverage all but unwatchable and there are American critics, too.

NBC will broadcast 171 hours of the Games compared with 300 on Britain's two BBC channels.

☐ **Media anger:** The European Broadcast Union, a 65-member consortium that paid $250 million to broadcast the Games in Europe, making it the second-largest Olympics rights holder behind NBC, has filed a formal protest with the organisers over working conditions after a chorus of media complaints about technology and access.

Reports that the union wanted some money back were denied yesterday by Jarle Hoeysaeter, an EBU spokesman. But he did not rule out seeking a refund if problems are not corrected quickly. *(AP)*

Media, page 23
Reports, pages 42-45, 48

Security scare adds to woes of gridlock Games

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

ORGANISERS of the Atlanta Olympics tried desperately yesterday to stop the centennial Games, previewed as a triumph for American logistics, being renamed the "problems Games".

Atlanta's steamy summer heat sapped spectators, a security scandal erupted, and international horticultural experts were summoned urgently to the main stadium after the grass died. The new glitches compounded the air of crisis created on Monday when bus drivers stopped work and athletes, furious about the transport chaos, went on a sit-down strike.

Security officials, who had given assurances that they were being particularly vigilant after last week's TWA disaster, were gravely embarrassed by disclosures yesterday that an armed man bluffed his way past guards at

[redacted]

the Olympics opening ceremony. Roland Atkins, from Colorado, was not initially challenged at the stadium gates because he was wearing a uniform that looked similar to that worn by official guards.

Mr Atkins, 55, was carrying a loaded .45 Smith and Wesson with 11 rounds and a knife. Mr Atkins, who has been charged with criminal trespass, was in the stadium for two hours before the ceremony, which was opened by President Clinton.

Elsewhere in the stadium yesterday, the groundsmen were looking despondently at some rapidly browning grass which died after being covered by a tarpaulin during the opening ceremony. Bob Brennan, the Games spokesman, said the tarpaulin had been intended to prevent the grass being damaged. Horticultural experts were summoned to see if anything could be done before the track and field events begin on Friday.

The Olympic stadium cost $209 million (£135 million) and will be partly dismantled after the Games for use as a baseball stadium. The running track will be relaid elsewhere and the hybrid Bermuda grass — or what is left of it — is likely simply to be thrown away to make way for a synthetic playing surface.

Olympics visitors have been dropping like snipe hit by two barrels on a Scottish moor. Yesterday there were 251 reports of heatstroke collapse, and a member of the Internationsal Olympic Committee succumbed to the elements during a game of tennis. Dawn Fraser, the Australian swimming star, was taken to hospital after suffering heart problems.

The IOC, which awarded Atlanta the Games eight years ago, has watched the problems with dismay and is quietly "surprised" that an American city has been unable to organise a proper transport and computer information system. A. D. Frazier, an Atlanta official, said solving the problem was like dealing with "a dinosaur — the head sends the message and ten minutes later the tail wags".

For minutes, read hours, if not days.

François Carrard, the IOC executive director, said yesterday: "We are working on the problems and are having more meetings as we try our utmost to get things sorted out. There have been some improvements, but there is still a lot to be done." One remaining problem is providing shelter for the press area in the stadium. It is open to the heavens and reporters' laptop computers are likely to malfunction because of the sunlight or the thunderstorms that have been forecast.

The Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 were such a success that many people expected the Atlanta Games to slot easily into place. Before the start the organisers brushed aside fears that they would not be ready. The optimism of Billy Payne, head of these Games, was pure Atlanta bombast — in the Georgian coastal city of Savannah they have long said of landlocked Atlanta that it would be a seaside resort if it could suck as hard as it could blow. And while the enthusiasm and hospitality of the locals have been boundless, veterans of the Barcelona Olympics have lamented Atlanta's lack of ambience.

The city has done much to repair its downtown area, but it lacks architectural charm. "They might as well have held the Games in Milton Keynes," said one spectator, surveying the acres of concrete.

Visitors have also complained that volunteer street guides have no idea where they are going. Although the volunteers are "local", they have clearly rarely ventured to what were the rough parts of central Atlanta, which have been temporarily colonised by the Games.

World's press gloats over chaos

BY LEYLA LINTON
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CARTOONISTS AND WRITERS SYNDICATE

Going to pot: How the *Toronto Star* sees the Games

SHAMBOLIC and chaotic is the world's verdict on the organisation of the Atlanta Olympics. Embittered cities which missed the chance of hosting the event are gloating at Atlanta's humiliation.

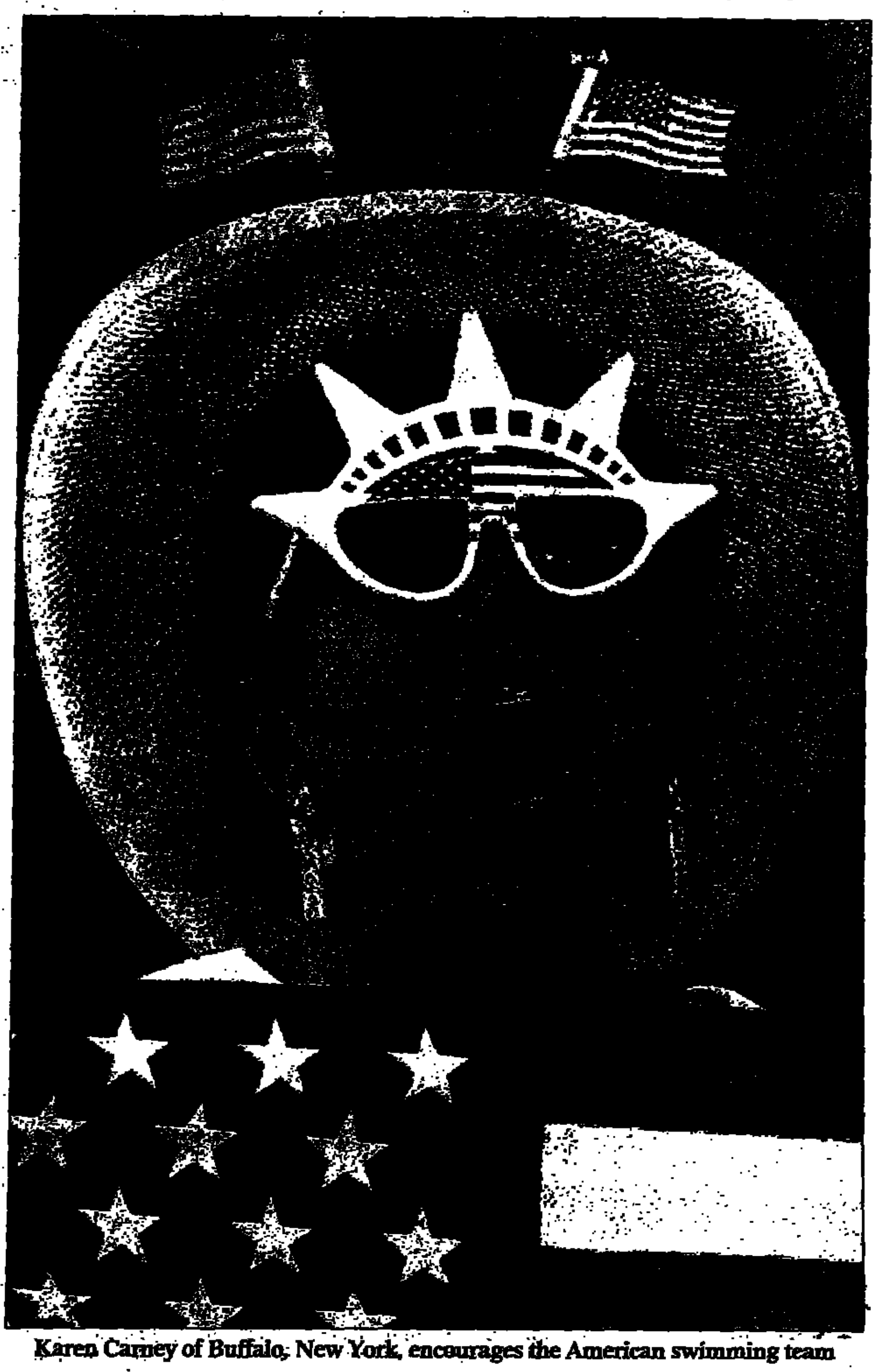
REACTIONS

The *Manchester Evening News* said its city was lucky to have lost its bid to stage the Olympics in the year 2000, given the problems facing Atlanta. "Princess Anne ... may well have been right when she said the failure to win the vote was probably the best thing that could have happened," it said. "Instead of enhancing America's reputation for efficiency, the Atlanta experience has made it a laughing stock."

Greece's attempt to host the Games this year was turned down and some Greek news reports gleefully seized on the defects in Atlanta. "A shambles, and that is putting it mildly," was a headline in the tabloid *Adesmeftos Typos*. "All the organisers were concerned about was security. In the first two days, the Americans managed to get nothing working properly."

With the images of Barcelona's slick 1992 Olympics still alive, Spain is smugly assessing the clumsy American efforts. The conservative daily *ABC* commented: "After such a torrent of bungles, it should not surprise us that so many sportsmen, coaches and journalists remember with nostalgia the Barcelona Olympiad ... In 1992, everything worked to perfection. This year, things have gone wrong right from the start."

Newspapers in Russia, France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy have also ridiculed the organisation of the Games.



Karen Carney of Buffalo, New York, encourages the American swimming team

Swimmer answers drug-use claims

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE double Olympic-gold winner, Michelle Smith, hit back yesterday after a whispering campaign by rivals that she had used performance-enhancing drugs.

Smith, whose two 400-metre victories have made her Ireland's first Olympic swimming champion, said she was the most tested athlete in her native land. She insisted that her success was due to a fitness programme normally used by track and field athletes and that she had never been tempted to take drugs.

"It would be really stupid

[redacted]

for me to do something like that," she said. "Once you are in the top 20 in the world rankings you are liable to be tested by FINA [the international swimming federation] or your own federation."

Janet Evans, the American winner of four gold medals, questioned the Irishwoman's success after failing to reach the final of the 400-metre freestyle won by Smith.

Dr Joe Cummiskey, the chief medical officer of the Irish team, said Smith had been tested 12 times in the past year. He tested her randomly eight weeks ago in compliance with Olympic regulations for steroids, masking agents, diuretics and stimulants.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said Irish people everywhere shared in the pride Smith had brought to the country.

Peking berates Olympics 'conspiracy'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

CHINA has launched what appears to be a concerted campaign of gripes against the Atlanta Olympics, hinting at conspiracy against Peking. Foreign diplomats said yesterday that the complaints go beyond mere transport difficulties for athletes.

According to the Chinese press, the Games are a disaster and discriminatory. Envoys say Peking's failure to host the 2000 Olympics —

[redacted]

Sydney won that contest — or retaliation for Western criticism over China's heavy-handed organisation of the United Nations Conference on Women last year, may be the motive for the campaign.

China is undergoing a period of nationalist revival, stemming from the party leadership under President Jiang Zemin, and typified by a best-selling book by five young Chinese authors called *China can say no*. The new volume is typical of the anti-Americanism that has become prevalent here since the United States sent two aircraft carriers near the Taiwan Strait earlier this year during Taiwanese presidential elections.

The *People's Daily* quoted an athlete as saying that if food at the Olympic village did not improve, he would be unable to eat any more in the absence of Chinese cooks.

Another article noted that the Olympics had been held three times in the United States, "yet it seems like the Americans are new hands". Chinese swimmers were told not to practise in the pool because "there was a suspected bomb". Fire alarms went off at night and athletes had to stand outside for over an hour. "They never explained what happened," an official said, adding: "It makes one think."

The Chinese press has not reported, however, that Chinese television censored the Games' opening to omit the entrance of Taiwan's team into the stadium.

Grant and Hurley buy Hollywood flat

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

HUGH GRANT appears willing to confront his recent past. The actor and former client of a Hollywood prostitute is said to have bought a flat within a mile of the crossroads where his encounter with a woman calling herself Divine Brown nearly ruined his career.

Mr Grant and his girlfriend, Elizabeth Hurley, are said to have chosen as their permanent Hollywood base an apartment near Sunset Boulevard once owned by Bette Davis.

The couple, both working on the same film, have been looking for a home in Los Angeles since their sudden successes — his in 1994's *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, hers as a cosmetics model — forced them to spend more and more time here over the past two years.

Before her boyfriend's rise to stardom Ms Hurley was virtually unknown: an aspiring English actress seeking work in Hollywood and renting a room in the hills above the studios from the British journalist William Cash. She is now the producer of Mr Grant's forthcoming film, *Extreme Measures*, which is in post-production at Castle Rock Pictures. The pair had taken to staying at the Four Seasons hotel when in Hollywood.

When Mr Grant was arrested by a Hollywood vice squad on June 27 last year, after committing a "lewd act" with Ms Brown, his love affair with American audiences and the lavish lifestyle that accompanied it seemed for several weeks in dire jeopardy.

A year on, his decision to bare his soul over the incident on a succession of prime-time talk shows appears to have saved his professional skin.

Ms Hurley, meanwhile, is said to be earning $1 million a year as the new face of Estée Lauder. The mortgage payments should be manageable.

☐ **Singer banned:** Donovan Leitch, 50, the Scottish folk singer better known simply as Donovan, has had to scrap an American tour after being denied travel papers because of a drug conviction still on his record after 30 years.

The singer was convicted of using marijuana in England in 1966. The black mark held up his application for a visa waiver at the US Embassy and forced him to cancel a tour promoting his first album in 12 years, according to his Los Angeles record company.

Rodney King faces jail term

Los Angeles: Rodney King, who was beaten by Los Angeles police five years ago, faces up to a year in jail after a hit-and-run incident in which he ran over his ex-wife in a car (Giles Whittell writes).

Despite being a millionaire and minor celebrity, Mr King has been unable to shake off his troubles with the law. Convicted in the hit-and-run case two weeks ago, he is to be charged with violating his parole terms from an earlier offence. He was awarded £2.5 million from the City of Los Angeles for his 1991 beating.

Santas descend on Denmark

FROM REUTER
IN COPENHAGEN

SIXTY sweating Father Christmases ho-hoed their way through Copenhagen yesterday in a parade opening the thirty-third World Santa Claus Congress.

A convoy of veteran fire engines and lorries, led by a brass band thumping out Christmas tunes, drove through the streets behind a clown. The unseasonal Christmas party took on a surrealist air as white-bearded Santas jumped from their vehicles to mingle with the crowds, singing Yuletide refrains.

"No joking, Santa is a symbol of peace and goodness. There is not much in this world which brings people together, but Santa unites us," said Skipper, a Santa employed at Denmark's Central Bank during the festive season.

But Santas sweating in July and a host of girl elves did not impress one little boy. "These are not the real Father Christmas," cried Rasmus, aged four.

Later a shoal of Santas was unloaded outside the parliament building for a short visit before the party was rounded off with a bumper Danish Christmas lunch, washed down with powerful Yule punch.

The week-long congress is being attended by more than 150 Father Christmases from 18 countries. Cyberspace tops the agenda. The world's Santas want to spread their message to the children of the future through computer screens.

"The days when children believed in only one Father Christmas are passing, and children are no longer naive," said Groth Rasmussen, the congress chairman.

Leading article, page 17

intel inside
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Sri Lanka carnage as fight at base intensifies

From Christopher Thomas in Colombo

THE Sri Lankan Army and Tamil Tigers are locked in one of the greatest slaughters of their civil war, with the combined death toll probably well over 1,000 in six days of fighting.

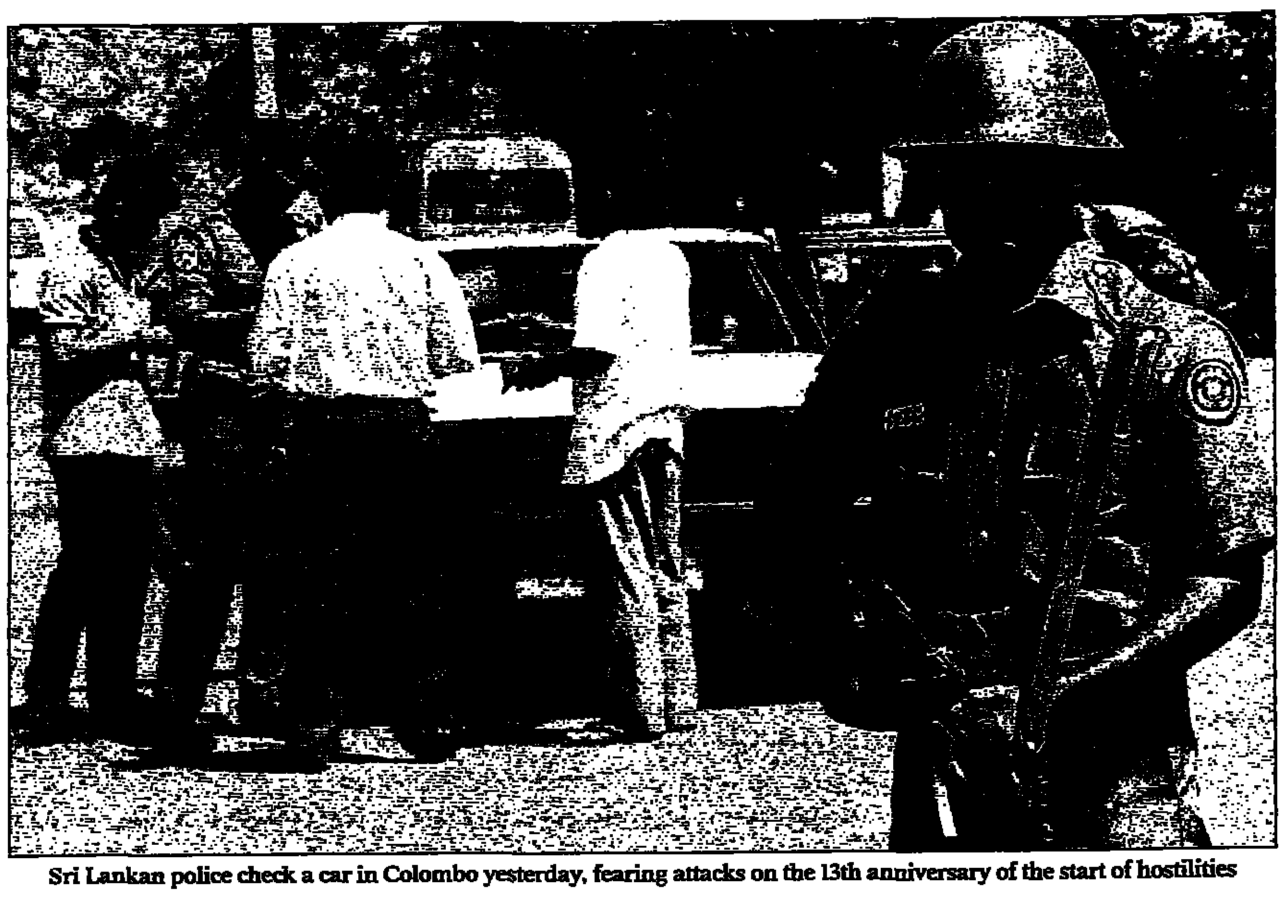
Both sides continued throwing combatants into battle for control of the strategic garrison of Mullaitivu on the northeast coast yesterday, apparently sustaining appalling casualties on the 13th anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities.

The Tigers have seized part, and perhaps all, of Mullaitivu base. Many of its 1,200 personnel are dead. The Government is determined to take back the garrison to deny the Tigers the claim that they have defeated the Army in a conventional battle, making a mockery of the assertion that the rebels were weak and crumbling.

More troops arriving by sea continued to come under intense artillery and mortar fire yesterday. The Government insisted the garrison's survivors would be relieved, although the Tigers claimed the reinforcements were pinned down on the beach. One report quoted a Sri Lankan official as saying 22 troops were killed when a rebel shell hit a landing craft.

Communications with the base were knocked out early in the battle, leaving the authorities in Colombo uncertain of the course of the battle. Army officials insisted they still held at least half of the Mullaitivu base.

The battle is crucial to the Tigers' credibility. They must demonstrate their prowess to reassert authority over the Jaffna Tamil population following their humiliating ejection from the Jaffna peninsula late last year and early this year by government forces. The demoralising defeat undermined the Tigers' prestige and threatened to disrupt their enormous international fundraising operations. Jaffna was run as a Tiger mini-state, with the population subjected to high taxation — a source of funds that has now ended, making foreign fundraising even more crucial.



Sri Lankan police check a car in Colombo yesterday, fearing attacks on the 13th anniversary of the start of hostilities

There is ample evidence of strong-arm tactics being used to force expatriate Tamils to contribute monthly donations. The Tigers have played stock markets in London and elsewhere and have investments in Tamil-run businesses around the world, especially in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which has 55 million Tamils. The Colombo Government says the rebels are involved in the heroin trade.

The Tigers have offices in 38 countries that raise millions of pounds a year from 450,000 expatriate Sri Lankan Tamils. Britain, Australia, Canada, Italy and Switzerland are key fundraising centres outside South Asia. The rebels fear their revenues may be hurt by increasing international distaste for the fighters, once viewed almost romantically as the defenders of an oppressed people.

India, once a benefactor, has turned against them, and most countries hosting a Tigers' office view the rebels as fanatics who have spurned legitimate peace overtures from the Government. Sri Lanka has never declared the Tigers an illegal organisation, in the hope of eventually drawing them into the political mainstream. This has made it difficult for foreign governments to close Tiger offices or investigate their affairs, despite calls by Sri Lanka to do so. By some accounts, the rebels raise at least £15 million annually from overseas operations.

Tigers unleashed by killer whose hero is Napoleon

By Christopher Thomas

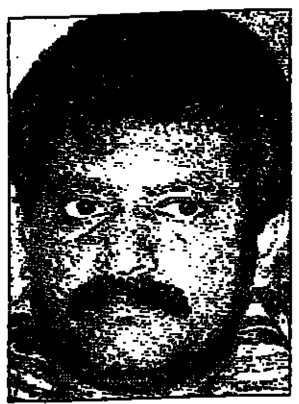
THE spectacular fighting form of the Tamil Tigers in perhaps the bloodiest battle of Sri Lanka's 13-year civil war is the work of one of the world's most deadly terrorists: Velupillai Prabhakaran, a poorly educated Hindu fisherman with a ready smile, a quick wit, a fondness for Clint Eastwood films and an admiration for Napoleon.

Plump, 42, married and a father, he looks anything but what he is: a mass killer, a political fanatic, a manipulator of the national hunger for peace, and probably the sole reason why thousands die almost every year in a conflict going nowhere. He used to immerse himself in sacks of chillis to teach himself to withstand pain in case he was caught and tortured.

He neither drinks nor smokes, expects celibacy from his men unless they are married, and is pitiless with those who fail to follow his orders to the letter. The miracle is that he has not been assassinated, because without him the Tigers would collapse. Anyone around him who might be plotting treachery is killed. For security reasons, he rarely speaks publicly.

The best that can be said of him is that he has not built a personality cult round himself, despite his reputation as a military genius. He confronts a 100,000-strong army with 10,000 fighters, yet has suffered few setbacks and never been captured.

He founded the Tigers in 1972 — the tiger is the traditional symbol of Tamils — in pursuit of a homeland called Eelam (Precious Land) in the north and east of Sri Lanka where most Tamils live. This was perhaps an inevitable outcome of increasing ethnic discrimination and, in particular, crass decisions by two Prime Ministers of the Bandaranaike dynasty — the 1956 declaration that Sinhalese would be the official language, which left Tamil-speakers isolated, and the juggling of regulations in 1971 so that Tamils needed higher marks than the Sinhalese majority to gain university admission.



Prabhakaran: fond of Clint Eastwood films

Prabhakaran, aged 17 when he and 30 other teenagers announced the formation of the Tigers, was known to friends as Thamby (little brother). His elusiveness is legendary, despite the Government's readiness to pay generously for his head: once he escaped security forces disguised as a peanut vendor and on another occasion as a priest.

Prabhakaran was born in the village of Valvedditturai into the lowly Karaiar (fishermen) caste but married into the higher Vellala caste. He met his wife, Madivadani, in 1984 when she and fellow students at Jaffna University went on a hunger strike "unto death" in a protest against discrimination. Prabhakaran and fellow Tigers swept onto the campus and carried the protesters to hospital, where they were forcibly fed, calling the exploit an "idiotic self-sacrifice".

His bitterness was forged early. In 1958, at the age of four, he saw an uncle burnt alive in language riots. He has described his childhood as lonely, especially "in the matter of mingling with girls". His educated father was a government-employed district land officer in Jaffna. "I was brought up in an environment of strict discipline," he recalled.

On another occasion he declared: "I used to read books on the rise of Napoleon and his exploits. This kind of history held special appeal."

US envoy urges Asean pressure on Burma

From A Special Correspondent in Jakarta

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the American Secretary of State, gave a warning yesterday of possible global consequences if pressure was not put on the Burmese military junta to introduce democracy.

Speaking at the third Association of South-East Asian Nations regional forum, Mr Christopher urged it to "consider the impact of current conditions in Burma on the region". The refusal of Burmese leaders "to heed the desires of a majority of people for a transition to democratic rule, and its increased harassment of the democratic opposition, not only violates basic universal human rights, but raises the chance of instability, bloodshed and migration within Burma and across its borders," he said.

"The steady deterioration of the rule of law has increased the threat that Burma's burgeoning drug trade poses to citizens from Bangkok to Berlin, Shanghai to San Francisco," he added. The United States, which has already stopped foreign aid and weapons sales to Burma, is considering, like the European Union, imposing sanctions.

Asean denies it is blind to the political situation in Burma, but prefers change through "constructive engagement". Burma may become a member in 1998, Asean officials said.

WORLD SUMMARY

Phone sex outrages islanders

Suva, Fiji: Tuvalu's national church is outraged that the tiny central Pacific island has boosted government revenue 10 per cent by leasing its international telephone code for phone sex services.

"If it is true, then this is the most degrading thing that has ever happened to Tuvalu," said the Rev Rosette Alefaio, of the Ekalesia Kelisiano. He had received pages from the magazine *Men Only* displaying advertisements offering sex conversation to callers who dial a number prefixed by Tuvalu's code, 688. *(AP)*

Charges ready in Abiola killing

Lagos: Nigerian police are to charge unnamed senior opposition figures with conspiracy in the murder of the wife of Moshood Abiola, the detained opposition leader, a police spokesman said. Mrs Abiola, vocal in support of her husband, was shot in Lagos on June 4. The police have held Abraham Adesanya, 74, Ayo Adebanjo and Ganiyu Dawodu, all National Democratic Coalition figures, since last month. *(Reuter)*

Filipinos face gold charges

Sydney: Two Filipino men, one calling himself a sultan and another a prince, were charged with trying to sell 50,000 tonnes of gold bullion they did not have. Hatij Rodinood Sultan Karim, 39, and Datu Mohammed Kadhur Karim, 48, were charged with two counts of fraud in the Surfers' Paradise magistrates' court in Queensland. *(Reuter)*

Deadly bait

Tirana: An Albanian fisherman who sought a bumper catch by dropping a Second World War bomb into the sea was killed when it blew up while he was handling it in the port of Vlore. *(Reuter)*

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NORTHERN ROCK BUILDING SOCIETY

Highlights of the Interim Report for 6 months ended 30th June 1996

- Assets now £12.9 billion – up by 12% compared with 31 December 1995.
- Pre tax profits up to £86 million – an increase of 16% compared with the 6 month period ended 30 June 1995.
- Net lending of £1.2 billion – an increase of 77% compared with the 6 month period ended 30 June 1995. This represents a market share of around 16% of the UK mortgage market.
- Reduction in Administrative Expense to Income Ratio to 31.5% compared with 32.5% for the 6 month period ended 30 June 1995.
- Reduction in Administrative Expense Ratio to 0.74 compared with 0.77 per £100 of mean assets for the 6 month period ended 30 June 1995.
- Arrears cases of one month and over reduced by 22% compared with arrears at 30 June 1995.

	6 months to 30 June 96 £m *(Unaudited)*	6 months to 30 June 95 £m *(Unaudited)*	12 months to 31 December 95 £m *(Audited)*
Net interest receivable	120.4	98.8	208.2
Other income & charges	22.3	23.8	41.0
Total income	142.7	122.6	249.2
Administrative expenses - recurring	(45.0)	(39.9)	(83.5)
- non-recurring	(2.0)	–	–
Provisions for bad and doubtful debts	(9.7)	(8.8)	(18.7)
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	86.0	73.9	147.0
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(29.0)	(24.3)	(49.2)
Profit for the period	57.0	49.6	97.8
Total Assets	12,896.3	10,733.9	11,559.1
Gross lending	1,601	1,086	2,2[illegible]
Net retail receipts	302	301	560
Net non-retail receipts	824	202	572

There have been no recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the periods under review.

Statement from the Managing Director

"Northern Rock has had an outstanding half year. Record gross lending of over £1.6 billion plus a strong increase in market shares for both lending and savings, accompanied by a further reduction in cost ratios, mean that we remain on course for another year of profitable growth. All this was achieved against a background of solid progress towards the Society's plans for conversion to plc status."

CHRISTOPHER SHARP
Managing Director

NORTHERN ROCK

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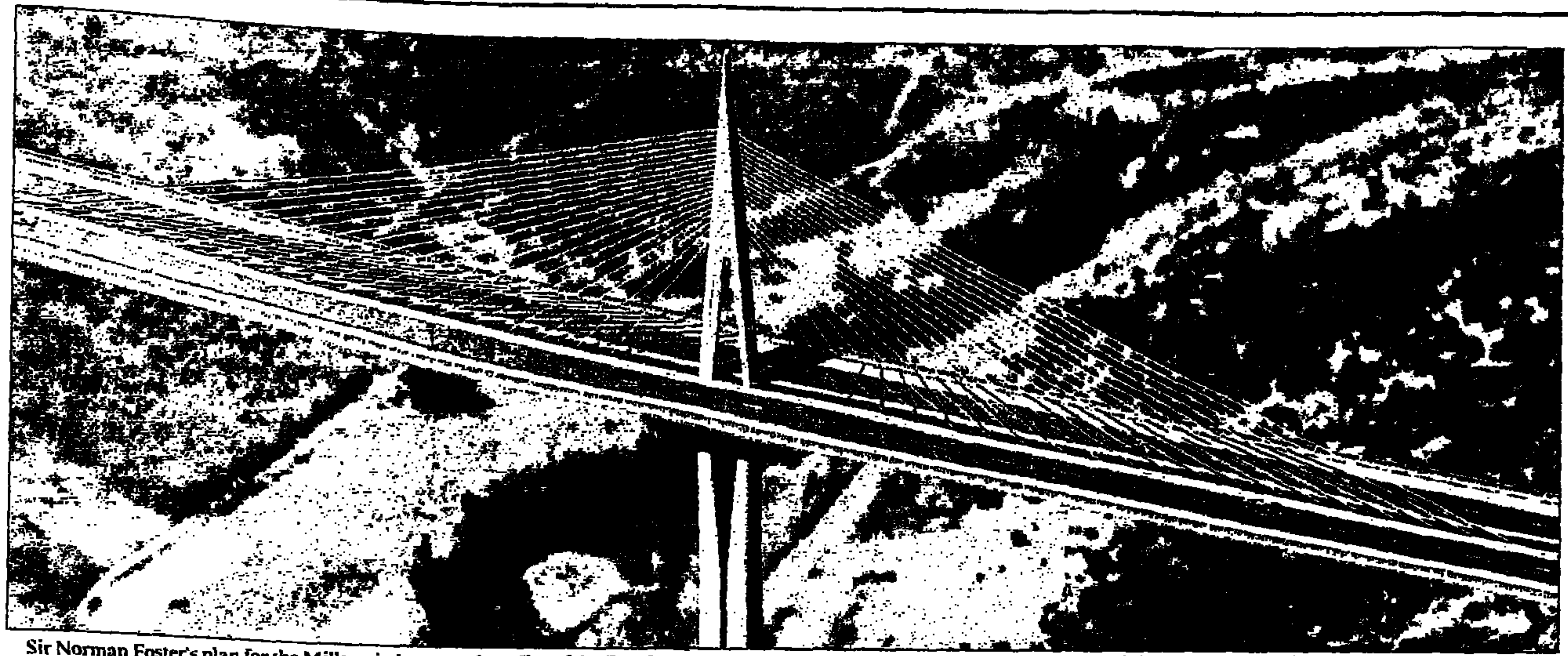


Sir Norman Foster's plan for the Millau viaduct over the valley of the Tarn has outraged some French critics, who have called it a "triumph for technical thinking over cultural thinking"

Briton's viaduct raises French storm

From Ben Macintyre
in Paris

THE British architect Sir Norman Foster has won a competition to design a vast viaduct in southwestern France, sparking protests from rivals and critics who say that his immense structure will "scar one of the most beautiful parts of the French countryside".

The Millau viaduct, named after the town in the Aveyron region which lies at one end of the planned structure, will eventually stretch 1.5 miles above the great valley of the Tarn, completing the high-speed A75 autoroute linking Clermont-Ferrand in central France with Béziers on the Mediterranean coast. At its centre, the viaduct's pillars will tower 1,130ft above the ground, 100ft higher than the Eiffel Tower.

Described as the world's largest terrestrial work of art, the viaduct will offer motorists breathtaking views as they drive between the two cliffs known as the Causse Rouge and the Causse Noir (the red and black limestone plateaux), but the design has been attacked as brutal and inappropriate.

"Is it really necessary?" the newspaper *Le Figaro* asked yesterday, describing the project as a "mastodon" that would cost at least Fr1.5 billion (£200 million) and create a "vast net of pylons" scarring the valley.

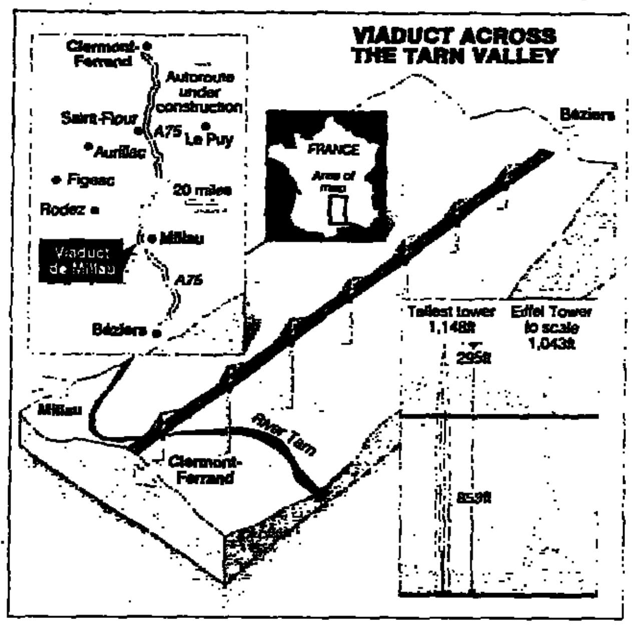
"This building is a nonsense, resulting from a poor analysis of the site," Francis Rambert wrote. M Rambert accused Sir Norman of failing to take the geography of the region into sufficient account, saying that the Romans or Eiffel "would have understood it better".

Sir Norman, who is also working on the British Museum and the Reichstag in Berlin, was one of 30 architects to submit plans for the viaduct. The competition was launched in 1993 and this month a jury of French architects, engineers and politicians debated the entrants for 48 hours before arriving at a shortlist of five designs.

"The jury chose the most glaring solution for the countryside," complained *Le Figaro*, describing Sir Norman's design as a "grand triumph for technical thinking over cultural thinking".

Others, however, have taken a different view. Christophe Cathala, of *Dépêche du Midi*, the local newspaper, described the Foster design as the most fluid, with a "purity of line that fits in well with the countryside".

The Foster viaduct will be built of concrete, with the sides of the roadway built on the model of aircraft wings to withstand the battering of high winds.



Peace hopes revive as Likud minister has talks with Arafat

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

YASSIR ARAFAT, President of the Palestinian Authority, held a successful first meeting at ministerial level with Israel's Likud Government yesterday, reviving hopes for peace in the Middle East.

The 90-minute encounter at the crossing-point between Israel and the Gaza Strip between Mr Arafat and David Levy, the Foreign Minister, was seen as confirming the pragmatism of Binyamin Netanyahu's Government. He won unexpected praise in Cairo last week when he met President Mubarak for the first time.

Mr Arafat, who is still regarded as a "war criminal" by some members of the Likud Cabinet, said after the meeting: "These contacts will continue at all levels, so that we can move the peace process forward at all levels."

Mr Arafat also disclosed that he had sent a personal greeting to Mr Netanyahu, although the Israeli Prime Minister has so far refused to meet the PLO chief. A Netanyahu-Arafat meeting is now expected within a month or two, according to Israeli political sources.

Mr Levy, who recently threatened to resign unless Ariel Sharon, a leading Likud hawk, was found a top Cabinet post, also spoke positively. "We decided to formalise our relations and to create the proper frameworks for examining the issues and advancing them," he said.

Diplomatic observers said that the significance of the meeting for the Likud Party, which for the past 20 years has demonised Mr Arafat as a murderer and denounced political rivals for talking to him, could not be overestimated.

Hemi Shalev, chief commentator for the daily *Maariv*, wrote: "The meeting signals clearly that the new Israeli Government really intends to maintain the obligations undertaken by its predecessor."

Arafat and Levy after their talks yesterday

As expected, the meeting did not lead to specific agreements on the many outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. But Mr Netanyahu said that his Government would decide this weekend about how to proceed with the long-delayed withdrawal from most of Hebron, the last West Bank city still patrolled by Israeli soldiers.

According to sources close to the Government, a compromise decision accepting much of the withdrawal scheme agreed by the previous Labour Government will be announced, with the addition of extra security for the Jewish settlers who will remain.

Mr Netanyahu described yesterday's talks as "significant in establishing dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians".

The meeting was accompanied by other signals of a thaw, including the start of the promised lifting of a ban on permits enabling Palestinians from Gaza to work in Israel.

Leading article, page 17

Adriatic sharks cause ban on bathers

By Francesco Bongarra

TOURISTS in the Adriatic have been driven from the sea by sharks. Coastguard boats have been patrolling the 30-mile Trieste coast and warning bathers to stay out of the water since three sharks were seen on Sunday. Police and lifeguards stop any swimmer who defies the warning.

The alert started when the crew of a regatta boat spotted three sharks which they said were at least 10ft long. The regatta was immediately cancelled.

Experts said sharks were seldom seen in the Adriatic. Although they can be aggressive towards swimmers, documented cases of attacks on humans are extremely rare.

However, Paolo Muner, the harbourmaster in the port of Trieste, said it was not unusual in summer to see blue sharks, which can grow up to 13ft long. Blue sharks are usually found near the surface in warm waters and feed voraciously on fish, squid and other sharks.

"The danger flags are still flying, and it is up to the individual beach operators when they decide to let people back into the sea," Signor Muner said. He added that some beaches had also been closed in neighbouring Slovenia.

Eta mastermind held in swoop by French police

By Tunku Varadarajan in Madrid
and Our Foreign Staff

THE Basque separatist group Eta has suffered a serious setback with the arrest by French police yesterday of Julián Atxurra Egurola, alias *Pototo*, believed to be one of the three members of Eta's high command.

Atxurra was arrested in a dawn swoop by heavily armed gendarmes at a farmhouse in Lasseube, near Pau, southwest France. About 30 police found a cache of arms including an anti-tank rocket, submachineguns, grenades and detonators in the farmhouse, along with electronic address books and an Eta seal.

His detention is a welcome boost for the Spanish Government in its war against Eta, which yesterday seriously injured a Portuguese citizen, Albino Machado Pires, 35, in a car bomb in San Sebastián. It is believed Senhor Machado, who may lose both legs, was targeted because he once worked as a cook for the Spanish Civil Guard.

He had been alerted by police after his name, a description of his car and indications of where he parked it were found on a list of Eta targets discovered by the police last March when they arrested an alleged Eta murderer. Atxurra, who is among the most wanted of Eta's members, is the group's unquestioned arms and logistics mastermind. His arrest is the fruit of an unprecedentedly close partnership between Paris and Madrid that has already led to high-level anti-terrorist agreements between the French and Spanish Governments.

The French Interior Minister, Jean Louis Debré, has met his counterpart, Jaime Mayor Oreja, several times, and the two are said by close observers to enjoy "a total meeting of minds on the terrorist threat from Eta". M Debré is believed to be "very favourably inclined" towards granting Spanish police a limited right of hot pursuit of Eta guerrillas into France.

Atxurra, known to have committed two murders himself in 1986, has been responsible for innumerable orders to kill, bomb and maim. In 1994, a Paris court sentenced him *in absentia* to eight years in prison.

Spanish security forces are preparing themselves for an aggressive Eta response to Atxurra's capture. The Basque group invariably retaliates after a member's arrest with violence against the Civil Guard. This time Eta's response could extend to tourists, as part of its summer campaign to disrupt the Spanish industry.

UN diggers start to uncover 'biggest mass grave' in Bosnia

From Stacy Sullivan
in Sarajevo

INVESTIGATORS from the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal began digging up a meadow that is suspected to be the biggest mass grave in eastern Bosnia in their continued effort to uncover evidence of the slaughter of Bosnian Muslims when Serb forces overran the UN-declared "safe area" of Srebrenica a year ago. Unlike other sites which have been in isolated areas, this grave, known as Nova Kasaba, sits on the edge of the main road, about 12 miles northwest of Srebrenica.

American intelligence sources have estimated the grave contains the bodies of between 1,550 to 2,700 Muslim men, who were killed as they tried to escape the advancing Bosnian Serb Army. Investigators estimate the number of bodies to be in the hundreds.

Because its proximity to the main road makes the exhumations much more visible to the Serb population, which has thus far insisted the grave sites contain the bodies of soldiers killed in fighting, UN investigators and Nato soldiers from the peace implementation force in Bosnia fear resentful Serbs are more likely to harass investigators. US troops posted an anti-sniper unit round the site and have lined the busy road with Bradley fighting vehicles. Troops have been given orders to ignore residents who shout abuse or make obscene gestures at them.

The team of 20 investigators at Nova Kasaba uncovered three corpses on Monday as they dug trenches round the site to mark the boundaries of the grave. One body was attached to a shoe poking out of the earth. In a test dig earlier this month, investigators found six bodies — two with their hands bound behind their backs, one with a crushed skull and two others with bullet holes in their heads. Last week investigators uncovered 154 corpses from a grave near Cerska.

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Army manoeuvres for the autumn

The maxi-coat, fur collar and brogues that make up this autumn's essential look are already moving from the catwalks to the high street, says **Grace Bradberry**

It's the height of summer, temperatures are in the 80s, but the truly stylish woman should be thinking about autumn. Does this sound mad? Think again. After the August holiday rush, most of us will return to find temperatures taking a sudden dive, and shops plunged into autumnal mood. And most of us will not have a clue what to buy.

The temptation is to put off shopping until the chill really begins to bite, but this is often a mistake: sizes go out of stock, the best pieces disappear altogether. The important thing is to know what to buy and to buy it early.

To help with this, the August editions of the glossies are, as usual, full of pictures from the designers' autumn/winter shows. But not all the "looks" are practical for a woman seeking investment buys for the office. Clashing patterns, catsuits and long cardigans are just three of the trends that will pass muster in fashionable restaurants and clubs, but few other places.

But there are several pieces that look set to make a successful transition from the catwalk. The maxi-coat, the military-style suit and brogue shoes or boots have emerged as the three "must-haves" for the autumn (thankfully, the brogues are in a court-shoe style rather flatties, and so much more flattering to the leg). The key accessory is a detachable fur collar, slung over a coat or worn over a sheer blouse.

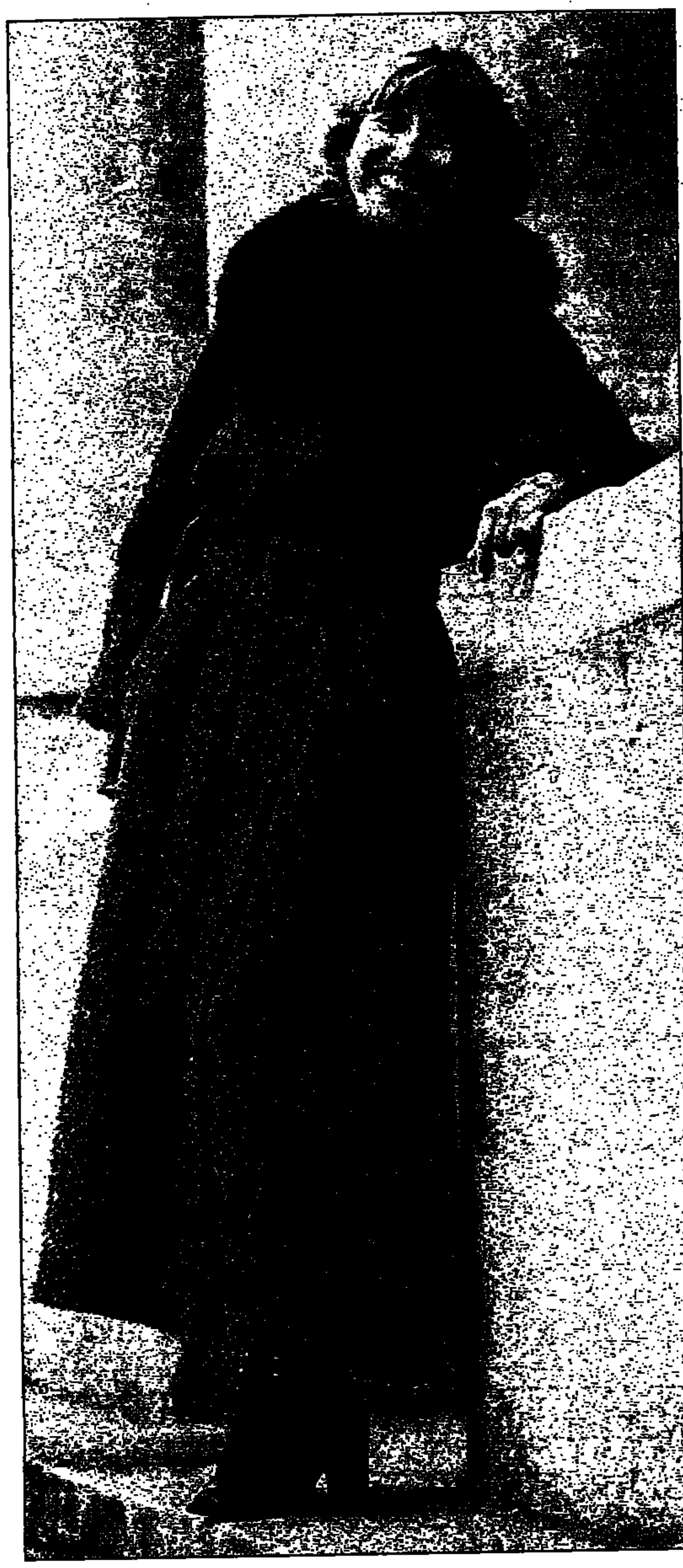
Overall, the idea is to look faintly Seventies and bohemian, preferably both at once.

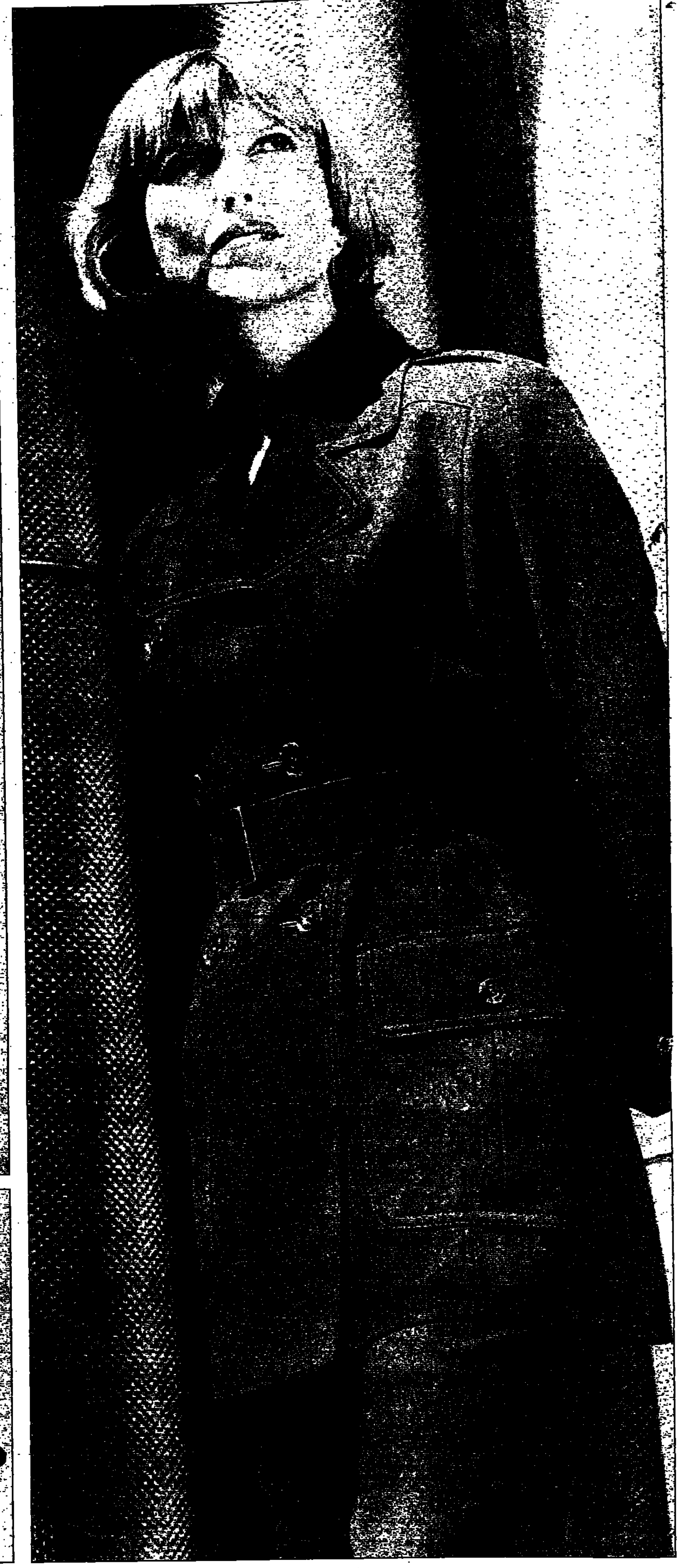
> The idea is to look faintly Seventies and bohemian

The fashion industry has been trying to persuade us to give up black for several seasons now, and by a process of attrition they have gradually succeeded in making it look a bit old hat.

This autumn comes the big push: designers have finally come up with base colours that are actually wearable. As Kim Stringer, associate fashion director of *Elle*, says: "Black is no longer the building block. For next season chocolate brown is a great colour, and so is khaki in small doses. Burgundy and maroon are also very flattering."

According to Ms Stringer, certain outfits make an instant impression on the catwalk, and are just bound to filter down the fashion chain. "If I'm looking at the Versace show and seeing the military coat, I *know* it will work. By the time the high street store has got hold of it, it's really quite different. But the gilt buttons and the belts will still be there, as well as similar proportions and colours."





The result will be nothing like the real thing — as Ms Stringer is careful to point out — but it will reflect the general direction that fashion is taking.

Beyond the obvious criteria of cut, colour and quality, there are key points to look out for this autumn. Texture is important. Several designers used leather and suede for their maxi-coats. If this seems both extravagant and impractical, then look for interesting wool mixes like the one used in the Jaeger coat pictured.

Wide lapels are the most important detail for jackets. Without them, a military style will look like army surplus. With them, it will have an impact not seen since the power-dressing of the Eighties.

But blocked shoulders and nipped in waists have not made a return. Look for long, lean lines and simple tailoring which will really show up the details to good effect. As always, there are a lot of trouser suits around, and the best shape is one that flares out at the bottom. Ideally the trouser legs should be slightly cropped, rather than skimming the shoes.

TOP FAR LEFT: Catwalk originals from Krizia (left) and Istante (photographs, CHRIS MOORE)

TOP CENTRE: Aubergine belted mélange coat, £440; bayleaf merino wool dress, £129, Jaeger, selected branches (0171-200 4000). Fake fur detachable collar, £55, Jackson, Selfridges, W1 (0171-792 8336). Ankle boots (also above left), £69.99, Ravel, selected branches (0171-631 0224)

ABOVE RIGHT: Khaki crêpe double-breasted jacket, £175; matching trousers, £110, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-730 9819)

Photographs by CHRIS HARRIS. Hair and make-up by Alex Babsky. Styling by Amandip Uppal

In general, avoid coats with fur trims that are attached — separate fake fur accessories slung over the top are not only more versatile but also more fashionable. The collar shown here also comes in a deep red.

Though all this advice may sound prescriptive, this is actually a good season for experimenting. "It's all about mixing everything up," says Kim Stringer. "It's a Seventies-inspired thing of freedom of expression."

REAL PEOPLE, REAL CLOTHES

CAMILLA Leigh-Pemberton (above), 32, has run her own party-planning company, Fait Accompli, for the last ten years. Her wardrobe is full of little black dresses, chosen so she can fade into the background when working, and shortish skirts. "I don't know why, but I never wear long skirts. In some ways, I'm incredibly square about clothes," she admits. She was quite taken with the maxi-coat and fake-fur trim, but not so sure about the brogue boots: "Will people really wear these?"

Four protective lipsticks tried and tested

FOR years, cosmetic companies have been promising lip products that will stay on, define the lips well, and protect them from becoming chapped. Guerlain has just launched its new Kisskiss Hydro-soft range in 24 shades and claims, of course, that this is the ultimate product. We put it to the test, along with three others.

■ GUERLAIN KISSKISS HYDRO-SOFT SPF8, £14, 24 shades.

Did it moisturise? Lips remained moist for several hours; score 9/10. Long-lasting colour? Despite being slightly transparent, it managed to stay put. We tested a deep red shade, but the colour worked well as both a subtle stain and a complete lip colour: 9. Total score: 18/20.

■ CLINIQUE SUN BUFFER LIPSTICK SPF15, £10, five shades.

Did it moisturise? Fairly good at keeping the lips moist. Also claims to be waterproof, and is PABA-free which is a preservative people can be allergic to: 8/10. Long-lasting colour? A sheer, fairly long-lasting lipstick, it left a film of transparent colour rather than defining the lips: 7/10. Total score: 15/20.

■ COLOURINGS SPF30, £3.75, Body Shop, four colours.

Did it moisturise? Kept lips moist for only a short while which would mean having to constantly reapply: 4/10. Long-lasting colour? The lipstick has a unique design with a core of concentrated sunblock running down the middle of the lipstick. Looks impressive, but though the initial result was luminous and glossy, the colour didn't last very long: 5/10. Total score: 9/20.

■ ELIZABETH ARDEN SUN SHADE SPF15, £12, three colours.

As a more sheer lipstick this one worked well at keeping lips soft: 6/10. Long-lasting colour? The glossiest lipstick tested, it was not as long-lasting as the Guerlain and was more effective as a protective stain than a full-on lip colour. Needed to be reapplied to maintain its richness: 5/10. Total score: 11/20.

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DONALD COOPER

Chris Minna, LaLa and L.D. thrust their pelvises with vigour among excesses of erotic underwear

The naked and the dead boring

A new West End rock musical owes more to pornography than to art

On Monday evening a new show, *Voyeurz*, opened in London's West End. The walls of the Whitehall Theatre display a poster of a man crouched in the posture of an arthritic tarantula. He appears to be salivating over the upper regions of a woman's thigh. "Satisfy your curiosity" challenges a red neon sign above the entrance. I joined the throng of people who had arrived in search of satiation, presumably.

A rock musical, *Voyeurz* has sold itself on promises of libidinous lesbians and simulated sex. Outside on the pavement I found myself among a motley crowd. There was a man with a leather harness round his chest, not unlike that which my great aunt uses for taking her unruly beagle for a walk. Peter Stringfellow's girlfriend was there, too, appropriately garbed in transparent plastic with three red dots over the most vital areas. And I saw the proverbial man in a mac. But it turned out to be Richard Harris — and his mac was clean.

As the show begins you are left in no doubt that you have strayed beyond the boundaries of Barbara Cartland romance. Even as the curtain rises you are inside the bedroom. Dancers writhe in knickers and vests, managing to look not unlike Form 3a from the local primary school miming their version of gas in the trenches. The show rolls, downhill, from then on. Its plot is banal, its lyrics ludicrous and its wit absent. Several members of the audience, shocked by cliché, left half-way through.

It is true there were enough buttocks to please the most demanding pygophiliac and pelvic thrusts of a vigour to make the Green Goddess proud. Flurries of fetishistic aids were brandished amid excesses of exotic underwear. But as nudity followed semi-nudity in swift succession, people no longer even bothered to lean forwards in their seats. The simulated sex was less erotic — and only marginally less embarrassing — than watching the vicar's Jack Russell mounting the postmistress's spaniel at a village fête.

When all was over, bar the disappointment, the only enthusiast I could find was Michael whose silver and red striped nail varnish matched — as he eagerly pointed out — the colour of his hair. "I work in the torture garden of a sadomasochists club," he went on to inform me winningly. "There is a stagnation in the fetish scene at the moment. With this show, business will pick up again." He planted a kiss on my shoulder before scuttling off. "Sorry, got to get away now," he said. "My cats Katy and Husky will be missing me."

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

I wandered through Soho on my way home. "Erotica", on the corner of Dean Street, blazoned the tacky temptations of a "live show". Pole dancing was on offer at an Old Compton Street venue. Call-girls cards littered the streets: "Busty model", "Correction given", "Let me spank you". There seemed little distinction between this world and the one from which I had emerged.

The dividing line between art and pornography is often blurred. Caravaggio's *Amor Vincit Omnia*, portrays a cherub, legs shamelessly astride. Owned by the Marchese Vincenzo Giustiniani, it was hung behind a green silk curtain, ostensibly because it would outshine all the other paintings in his collection. But he and his brother, Cardinal Benedetto, would probably pass by from time to time and draw back the drapery for a lascivious look. Fragonard's *The Swing* proffers a titillating peek up a woman's petticoats and Lord Leighton's *Bath of Psyche* seems deliberately designed to stir Victorian lusts.

Pornography can be beautiful. The work of Aubrey Beardsley or Thomas Rowlandson enjoy the status of fine art. Pirelli calendars have become a collector's item. The idealisations of artful pornography play on the seductive side of sexuality. Their exquisite sense of control can be teasingly sensual. Manet's *Olympia*, reclined in composed perfection, stares forth from the canvas with erotic challenge.

It is when reality invades the fantasy that eroticism seeps away. The nudes of Lucian Freud, for example, their flesh tinted with a visceral sheen, sprawl like dead meat on a slab. They evince the same queasy response as a girl in a Soho sex show.

Although admittedly curious I have never dared go to one of these shows. Stories of belligerent bouncers and Brobdingnagian bills have scared me away. But a friend told me of one rite of passage trip. A naked girl with the emaciated body and punctured veins of a junkie, squirmed dispassionately on a grubby camp-bed. It was the hard yellowed skin of her feet that he most remembered.

"It reminded me why sex and death are always supposed to be linked," he said. It is this uncomfortable closeness which Luis Buñuel captures in *Un Chien Andalou* with an image of a man caressing a woman's breasts as his face changes into a death mask. That a woman should be driven by addiction to earn her living in a lewd peepshow seems painfully exploitative. Suddenly, curiosity collapses into compassion.

Voyeurz, of course, is not this extreme. Though most of its cast is female, the two expressionless but well-endowed men appear at least as ridiculous as the women. And they did all choose to take part.

But the stage is a notoriously precarious profession. For a young actor or actress, struggling to make ends meet, it would take the courage of very strong convictions to turn down any West End part. It is depressing that *Voyeurz* should have offered them such tawdry theatre for their talents.

Last Sunday I watched a documentary celebrating 25 years of "Page 3 Girls". Several of the former models declared that they wished they had never posed naked. Attracted, naively, by the sparkle of celebrity, almost none had gone on, as they had hoped, to careers in modelling or on the stage. It was only after she had had her first son and watched him breastfeed, said one of the girls, that she had realised how meretricious her breast-baring past had been. It was a poignant emotion, even more so when juxtaposed against the opinions of an editor. He discussed the girls as commodities. He chose them because they seemed the right shape for a four-column picture.

Michael White, the producer of *Voyeurz*, has several successes to his name. He could have worked to produce a far more worthwhile show for young aspirant dancers to appear in — one which they need never feel embarrassed about in later years. Instead he has relied on tawdry titillation in a piece of theatre which, in its desire to shock, has cast most craftsmanship and art aside.

In the end it is up to audiences whether they will ratify this decision. As I reached home, I passed the prostitute who plies her trade on the corner of my street. She is something of a landmark in the area. "Turn left by the blonde," people say when giving directions. "You're late Rachel, had a good night?" she asked. "Not really . . . and you?" "Yeah, great," she said, patting her purse. The idea of a good night out can mean very different things to different people.

Joseph Connolly, sans luggage, reports on lapel-pin swapping in Atlanta

Even the politeness makes you sweat

MARC ASPLAND

All the yelling and flag-waving of the opening ceremony was carefully choreographed

Well, here I am in Atlanta, Georgia — and it's bloody hot. Actually, what makes you sweat is not so much the heat as the (you got it) humidity. That and the politeness. Politeness here is a sort of competition, with points for staying power under duress, longevity of smile and profusion of courtesies.

People are falling over each other to thank you, apologise and thank you again. I rather like it. For once you don't feel a prat for being nice and British: open a door for a lady and she is grateful and she *smiles*, for God's sake.

Perfect strangers hail you in the mall and say "How *are* you?" with a depth of solicitousness seldom encountered among one's nearest and dearest. And because one is conditioned to answer questions when addressed, one finds oneself saying: "Well, not too bad, actually, all things considered, thanks for asking — had the makings of a cold at the beginning of the week, but it seems to be OK now — cat's looking peaky but hey, who's complaining?" Whereupon they *don't* look at you as if you've just escaped from somewhere best not discussed — they say: "I'm really pleased/sorry to *hear* that" and they really do appear so. In shops they say: "Now y'all be sure to come back and see us soon, you hear?" (Yeah, they really do say y'all — with no trace of irony) and you think, I really want to show this man pictures of my children, and maybe we could get together one Christmas and make a real go of it.

But let me tell you why I'm here. I'm here for the Olympic Games, courtesy of those terribly nice people at Swatch. It's a curious thing, corporate hospitality. It's all about making you feel special when deep down everyone (especially you) knows that you're not. Swatch is the official timekeeper for the Games, and what it doesn't know about corporate hospitality ain't worth a damn, my dear (*Gone With the Wind* was written in Atlanta). My suite at the hotel, I have to say, is beautiful, and roughly the size of Reading.

Let me tell you about the opening ceremony. Did you watch it on TV? Three-and-a-half billion people tuned in live, we were told (God knows how many corpses), which I guess makes me kinda famous, boy. All the yelling and flag-waving was carefully choreographed, you know. We were all sitting there for a couple of hours in the 96-degree cool of the evening, and a very nice white man and an equally pleasant black lady alternated in giving us instructions so detailed that many passed out under the strain of it all.

Some British hacks, faced with the attendant headache of trying to remember just when to bark out "Welcome!", flash one's flashlight or wave one's hanky, could cope only by way of copious Anadin washed down by a vase of Coke (they think big in Georgia: this is always on my mind). I couldn't get the hang of it at all because they were also telling us to drink loads of "fluids"; I tell you that shouting out "Woo, woo! Way to go!" while waving a scarf, whistling, flashing your torch *and* getting down loads of "fluids" is by no means an easy ride and all you end up with is spillage on your props.

The British could barely conceal their anxiety because it's all very well saying "drink, drink, drink" but we had also been told that if you left the stadium there was no coming back and so indelibly etched into the consciousness of Her Majesty's press was "Oh dear God, five hours and no loo — maybe it would be more politic to die of dehydration". Added to that, the only time in Georgia you are allowed to smoke is while taking a shower in the privacy of your personal asylum.

Even President Clinton at one point (the point you'd expect — when Martin Luther King's greatest hit speech was tannoyed to the masses) appeared overcome. According to *USA Today*, he was "tearing up" (not pronounced as you might expect — think weepy).

Anyway, there was buckets of enthusiasm: Peter Fonda was cool (his torso is one foot long and his legs comprise the other five) and Spike Lee was shouting: "Just one photograph, and that's it!" (He was saying this for ages.) And people were eagerly swapping lapel pins. Yeah, lapel pins. They cover their luminous long shorts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, baseball-cap sweatbands (any number of sweaty things) with these little enamel badges that are a sort of divine and potent mission in these parts. People have been forcibly relieved of their lapel pins, a policeman was telling me, by the straightforward expedient of blowing their heads off with a Magnum and moving on.

Did I tell you they lost my luggage? Yeah. I've just heard (three days later) that it's in Dallas. My suitcase is better travelled than I am — I've never been to Texas. I'm going to eat now: I could go to the "Lettuce Ouprise You" joint downtown, but I feel inclined to plump for Bone's Steakhouse which claims: "We give not only fine beef, but our hearts as well".

PS. Luggage hasn't turned up. Was last sighted in Fort Worth, heading south. My wife phoned last night, apparently. "Oh yeah," the girl said. "You want the man with no clothes!" It's not easy is it? And it's bloody hot.

John Goodbody, page 23

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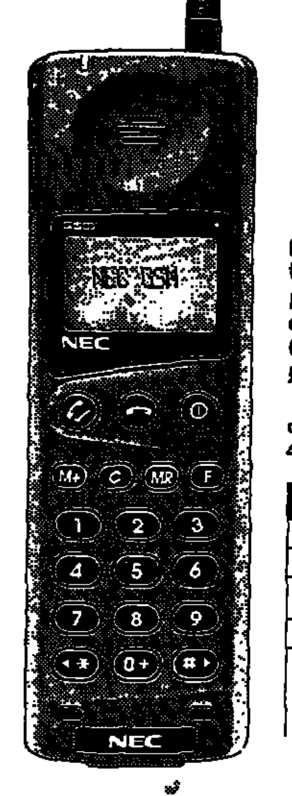

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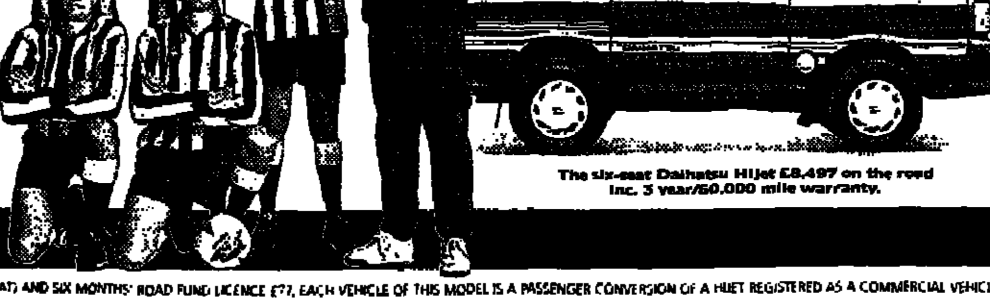

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Alan Coren

■ Just a mo: what's *le mot juste* for this Frenchman's toes?

I cannot remember the word for toe. No, no, of course not that word for toe, you can see I have remembered that, what I cannot remember is the French word for toe. I am standing here on the Antibes beach, on my own ten toes, and staring down at them as if, I don't know, the shape of them, the disposition, the way I am wiggling them, will somehow jog the memory. I have even gone so far as to hurtle down the arches of the years to fetch up at a blackboard on which Eirlys Thomas, MA (Cardiff) is doing parts of the body. How about that?

I can go back 40 years to dredge up my French teacher's Christian name, her *alma mater*, but not her word for toe. Look, she has drawn a mannikin on the board, and I can see her point to his *genou*, descend her chalk and point to his *pied*, but when her chalk gets to the end of his *pied* — nothing.

You are a caring readership, I know, and you will have become concerned about all this. Has he, you fret, hurt his toe in some way, had a crab on the end of it, trod on something, trod in something, got it sunburnt, found a verruca under it, and does he now need to communicate this to the local emergency services? No (but thank you for asking) it is none of these. This is not about the toes I am standing on, it is about the toes the man over there by the beach-bar is standing on; because while I, as you have heard, am standing on ten, he is standing on 12.

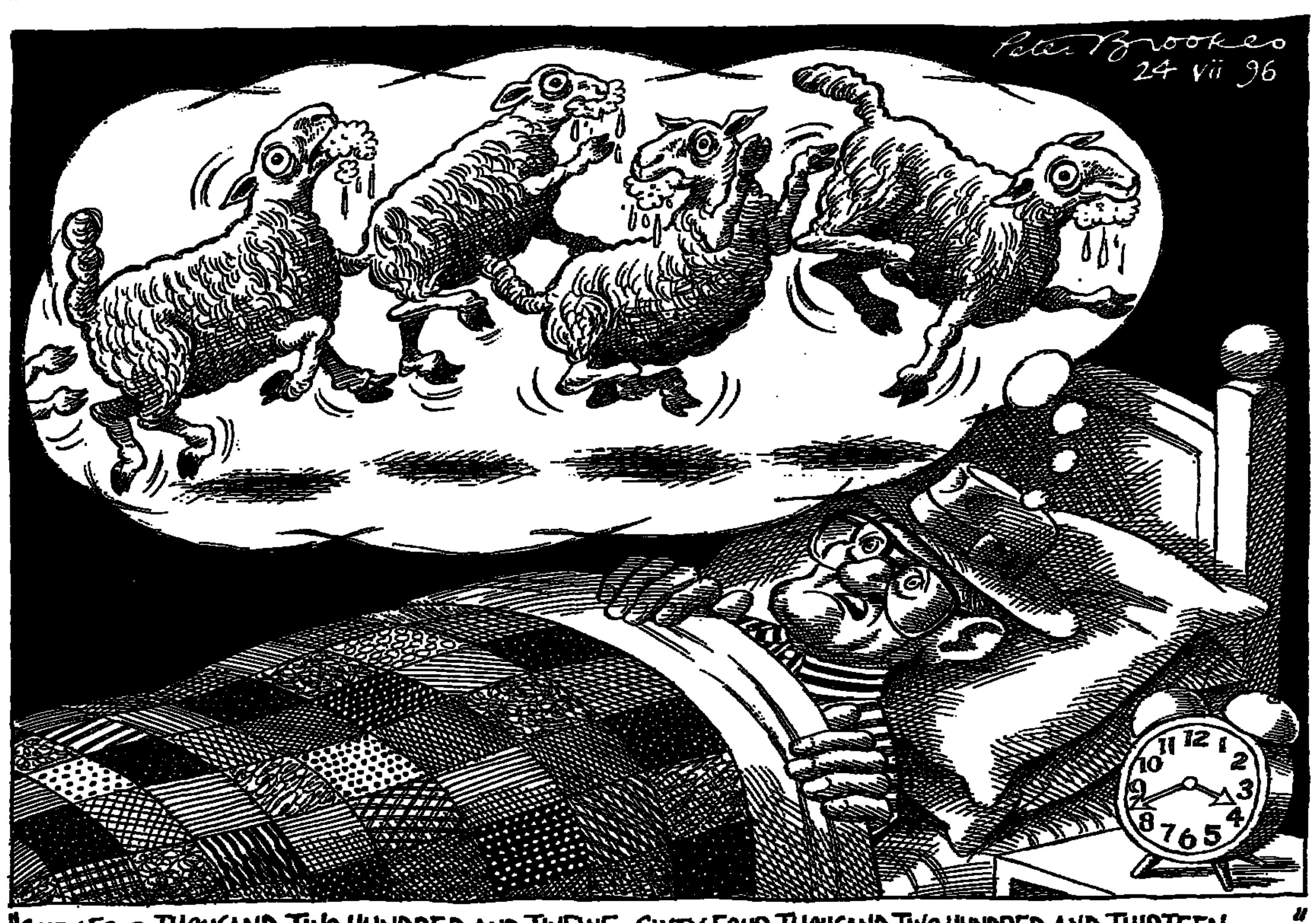
Do not stare at them. That is the mistake I made. I came out of the sea a few minutes ago, and because the sea was the Mediterranean one — do you know the French for drain, by the way? It is *l'égout* — the first thing I did was rush under the beach shower before ten billion bacteria could unpack and go to work. That there was already someone under it did not matter, we are a friendly lot on this beach, not to say so commendably post-sexist that I have often shared a douche with those of a differently topless persuasion, but on this occasion I did not have to be circumspect, even with my eyes. Would that I had: for, as I glanced down, I saw that, beneath me, there were 22 toes, and, God help me, I looked up at him, and then looked down again, and, worst of all, looked down long enough for him to have no doubt at all about what I was now doing. I was counting. Just to make sure. Then I looked up again, and caught his eye — not difficult, it was watching me like a CCTV camera — and he grinned, and shrugged, and, after a moment or two, walked out of the douche and, smoothing his hair back, towards the bar.

After a bit, I walked out of it myself. I wanted a drink, too, but more than that, I wanted to apologise. In truth, I couldn't get a drink without apologising: I could not follow a 12-toed man to a bar when our only previous social contact had been my shameless preoccupation with his pedal quirk.

But the word for toe has gone. I know I had it once, but I do not have it now, and without it, how can I apologise? A general apology will not do, because his natural response will surely be to ask me what I am apologising for, and I am unable to tell him that I am apologising for staring at his toes. That I know the word for feet (see above) does not help: by apologising for staring at his feet, I shall seem to be studiously avoiding mentioning his toes. I cannot, since you ask, just stroll over to the bar, smile, and say nothing. This man knows I am interested in his toes. He may even think I do not want a drink at all, I want only to have another sly shufti at his round dozen.

I know what you're going to suggest. You're going to suggest that I go up to someone else on the beach and ask them what the word for toe is. Thanks. You realise what that would involve? It would involve pointing at my own toe. And suppose the man at the bar saw me doing that, and talking, and then, as one does, smiling, laughing even? The only safe course of action would be to get changed, go into town, find a bookshop, look up the word for toe, come back, strip again, and then go up to him. Fine. Even if he had not by then gone, he would no longer be at the bar. I should have to find him wherever he was, leaving him to conclude that I was not merely interested in his bloody toes, I was obsessed by them.

I do not know what to do. This is a tricky situation. Really freaky.



"SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND TWELVE, SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN....."

Blair's cap doesn't fit

For all its promises to restore local government, Labour has become as centralist as the Conservatives

Simon Jenkins

Something strange comes over Tony Blair when he talks about local government. He gazes down at his boots or up at the ceiling. The sentence-with-a-smile begins as usual, with the tightening of the upper lip and downward chop of the hand. Then he gets to the awkward bit. There is a telltale moment of hesitancy. The voice falls an octave. The weasel words are raced out and he quickly returns to balmy platitude.

As Mr Blair battles through today's Shadow Cabinet elections, the taproom gossip is about the awful things the parliamentary Left has in store for him in government. Watch Mr Livingstone or Mr Flynn or Ms Abbott, we are told. Watch for the first Cabinet walkouts, Clare Short perhaps, or Margaret Beckett or the Hezza of the lower deck, John Prescott.

The gossip is wrong. The skeletons in Mr Blair's cupboard are rattling elsewhere. Yesterday they gathered under the aegis of the Local Government Association at London's QE II conference centre, to be addressed by Mr Blair himself. They come from the city Labour parties of Manchester and Liverpool, Birmingham and Newcastle, Bristol and Edinburgh. They are the three-quarters of Britain whose local administration is currently under some form of Labour control. They are 11,000 serving Labour councillors, the roots, trunk and branches of new Labour. The parliamentary party is but seasonal blossom.

John Major's hostility to localism has driven Tory activists to despair and oblivion. Even in the counties he has stripped them of power and privilege. They have folded their tents and gone home. One reason for the lack of Tory response to the current economic good news is that there is nothing on which it can build. Conservatism has lost its community leaders, its saloon bar cronies. Mr Major set out in 1990 to crush them, to disprove the sacred maxim that "all politics is local politics". He is still trying.

Mr Blair wants to "breathe new life into local democracy". The litmus test of such a claim is simple. It is not directly elected mayors, though Mr Blair's support for them could prove one of the most exciting innovations in British politics since the war. It is not returning health or further education to local government or getting more councillors into quango jobs. The test is rate-capping. Rate-capping, introduced into Britain in 1984, did more to sap responsibility from local democracy than the poll tax and council tax combined. The related seizure by the Treasury of business rates was the biggest ever act of "nationalisation". Some £14 billion worth of revenue moved from the control of local electorates to the Exchequer. This passed undebated in Parliament, uninvestigated by any select committee and unmentioned by the press.

Capping had nothing to do with poll tax, which was originally proposed to increase, not diminish, local accountability. It was a means to get all British taxes under Treasury control. Margaret Thatcher could not bear the sight of any corner of the kingdom defying her orders. Central government's contribution to local spending duly rose from 40 per cent in 1984 to above 80 per cent today. Its control over that spending is probably 95 per cent.

The effect has been disastrous for the public finances. Prior to 1984, local spending rose slower than central spending. Afterwards, it rose as fast, if not faster. Previously thrifty councils spent up to the cap limit. For the past decade, central government has poured out subsidies to local taxpayers, adding up to 4p to the basic rate of income tax. VAT also rose by 20 per cent.

This is the cause of the Tory party's vulnerability to the charge of "extra taxes". Ministers seem to believe that the more public spending is brought directly under their control, the lower it is likely to be. They believe that Whitehall is inherently more careful with public money than the town or county halls collectively. There is not a shred of evidence for this smug assumption.

So what of Labour? The party opposed both capping and the seizure of the business rate. It promised to reverse them. Nothing could have been easier than to maintain that pledge, but Mr Blair now says only that he will "end crude council tax-capping." The word "crude" is a recent insertion. Connoisseurs of political grammar will spot the cunning. Does Mr Blair mean to end all rate-capping, which he regards as crude, or end only such capping as he chooses to define as crude? The former indicates a belief in local discretion; the latter a belief that the Treasury knows best. The answer is the latter. "We do not believe it is right," said Mr Blair yesterday, "that central government should universally cap all council budgets, but we will retain power to protect local taxpayers from excessive increases."

These are the words used by Margaret Thatcher in introducing rate-capping in 1984. The sole point of capping was to curb "excessive increases". It was a political assault on a dozen councils that were taxing and spending through the roof. Local electors should have been left to throw these councils out. Already in the middle 1980s, Labour militants were being ousted by moderates, and Liberal Democrats were on the attack. Local accountability was working.

Tony Blair now appears to be drifting towards the same attitude as Margaret Thatcher. His belief that "any government must retain reserve powers" over rates is a denial not only of what happens abroad, but of what happened in Britain before 1984. The essence of the ballot is precisely to curb "excessive tax increases". The local ballot needs reform to make it more accountable, not centralisation to make it less so. Mr Blair suggests that accountability can be met by reserve capping powers and an expanded battery of auditors and regulators. I wonder what he (or Mr Major) would say if Brussels proposed a similar regime for Britain's fiscal policy under a single currency.

Labour has bought lock, stock and barrel the Treasury thesis that all public spending is a seamless web. Local councils can be allowed discretion over how to administer a service, but not over aggregate spending. It is a central government agent. A council can raise charges at will, but not taxes at will. It can sell assets, but not reinvest the money. Even the famous council-house sales revenue will be released by the Treasury, says Mr Blair, only "on a phased basis". That is the present Government's policy.

Indeed with the creditable exception of elected mayors, Mr Blair's local government policy is indistinguishable from that of the Tories. He appears to intend no change to the capping regime at all. When he says that "councils will have choice and flexibility . . . in stark contrast to the current approach", I cannot see what he is talking about. The words are foam. As for the one-time promise to restore the business rate to local councils, it has vanished in the wind.

This means that under Labour there would be no check on council spending except through the medium of central government and its agencies. The cap will remain for all councils in so far as it remains for "excessive" ones. I predict that local spending will be pushed upwards as it has been under the Tories. Worse, Mr Blair will find militants creeping back into positions of power on local councils, shielded from irresponsibility by capping, manoeuvring their union friends back into leverage. Here is the rebirth of local industrial strife.

Mr Blair is rightly terrified that left-wing councils may blot his escutcheon, as they did Jim Callaghan's and Neil Kinnock's before him. He is reluctant to surrender a short-term disciplinary weapon, capping, that might keep them under some control. Yet capping encouraged militancy by centralising blame for poor services. Uncapping is far more effective, since it returns accountability to local democracy. Remove capping, reform local councils and the electors can be left to slaughter the militants.

The only virtue of poll tax, in its original, untried (and uncapped) form, was that it proposed just this. Decisions on local taxes would lie with local electors. If they did not like their councillors' decisions, they could throw them out — the more so if everyone paid something. But that was the one virtue in the poll tax that Margaret Thatcher abandoned. Perhaps the time has come to reassert it.

Modernise but don't privatise

Gordon Brown defends Labour's radical credentials

Last week's document leaked to *The Times* from inside the Treasury considered only one path of reform for Britain's welfare state: an American-style New Right retrenchment of its functions and services. But it is quite wrong to suggest, as many commentators have, that the only debate is between privatisation and the status quo, and by implication to criticise Labour for opposing change.

Labour agrees that the status quo is not an option. Too many people in Britain today are not working, condemned to poverty and social deprivation. For them, and millions more in insecure employment, the welfare state is failing. The real debate is between privatisation, increasingly advocated on the Right, and modernisation of the welfare state.

Today's welfare state is failing to put people back to work and to promote independence, self-sufficiency and security. Since 1979, long-term unemployment has increased from 350,000 to more than 800,000; the number dependent on means-tested benefits has risen from 17 to 36 per cent of the population; and the number of workless households has risen from one in 12 to one in five. This is why welfare spending on non-pensioner households has increased by 250 per cent since 1979. The consequences are clear. Income inequality is now higher than at any time this century; inequality is growing faster in Britain than in any other Western country, and the number of people in poverty has grown to one in three.

This is a consequence of economic failure. But it is also a symptom of a welfare state which has not been modernised to take account of the end of jobs for life, the growth of part-time employment and falling demand for unskilled workers.

The Tory response to the inadequacies of the welfare state is to suggest that it is unaffordable and must be dismantled. The significance of the Treasury document is that it reflects the thinking of the ascendant Tory Right. Compulsory insurance for invalidity benefit, unemployment benefits and even the basic state pension are all on the hit-list of a Conservative Party that believes we cannot afford the welfare state.

Yet all the evidence suggests that wholesale private provision of benefits will drastically increase charges for people, compound insecurity and, as the evidence of the private pensions fiascos of the past few years shows, leave many without proper provision.

Labour's response to the failure of the status quo is very different. The dominant feature of the years to 2015 will not just be the rapidity of change, amid new waves of technological progress, but the need to reassess completely the role of government — not, as sometimes in the past, acting as a substitute for individual responsibility, but enabling individuals to realise their full potential.

Labour has a four-pronged strategy to modernise the welfare state. First, we have set out a costed programme to ensure that every young person unemployed for more than six months will receive either a job offer, through tax rebates to the private or voluntary sector, or the opportunity to learn new skills. New opportunities demand new responsibilities. A life on permanent benefit cannot be an option for young people.

Secondly, we shall provide opportunities for people to save for the future and to improve their skills. Our proposed Individual Savings Account will help people to save for retirement. Everyone will have the chance to contribute to an Individual Learning Account, with special help for the unemployed. And we shall ensure that every 16 to 18-year-old studies in order to achieve a basic minimum of education and skills. It is because the status quo is not working that we are undertaking a review of all public spending on post-16 education, including child benefit for that age-group.

Thirdly, Labour will ease the poverty traps that prevent many people from taking jobs that are on offer. Chris Smith, Labour's social security spokesman, has recently made a number of proposals for pilot schemes to investigate means to tackle this problem, so that the Employment Service is not just about paying benefits, but about getting people into work. And as part of our modernisation of benefits, we will introduce a minimum wage to underpin the benefit system and to ensure that benefits for those in work, such as Family Credit, help those in genuine need, rather than subsidising employers.

Fourthly, just as it is wrong to have penal rates of taxation for those at the top, so it cannot be right that low-earners should face punitive marginal tax and benefit rates. That is why, in contrast to the Government's long-term aim of abolishing inheritance tax and capital gains tax, Labour's aim is to reduce tax rates and cut benefit tapers at the bottom of the income scale.

So Labour will act in government as a vehicle for change, preparing Britain for the new millennium. But we reject the proposal for a Republican-style privatisation of the welfare state — the Tory programme for a fifth term. I do not believe that the British people want a country further divided, more unequal, with greater insecurity for all. Our plan for government is to modernise the welfare state, promoting work, choice and independence to ensure security and opportunity for all.

The author is Shadow Chancellor and MP for Dunfermline East.

THE TIMES DIARY

Shore, shore

ANOTHER winning idea from Labour's inspirational deputy leader, John Prescott. He says he wants Labour activists to set up Punch-and-Judy-style booths at the seaside this summer as part of a campaign to target tourists.

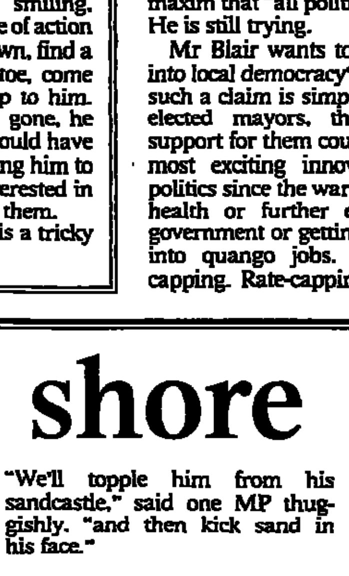
"We'll fight the Tories on the beaches," rumbles pudding-face Prescott threateningly, sporting a new Labour handkerchief on his huge head. "We are going to give our people a bucket and spade and a pledge-card and send them out into the sunshine to soak up the voters."

Prescott hopes to find converts among the 16 million visitors to the South West this season. He wants information and recruitment stalls on promenades and piers alongside the ice-cream sellers.

Ron Morrison-Smith, chief executive of the West Country Tourist Board, is sceptical about brother Prescott's vision. "I think they will have to choose their locations very carefully," he says. "Not everyone will be impressed by the introduction of politics into Punch-and-Judy booths, though at least it will take attention away from the topless bathers."

Conservatives are less subtle. "We'll topple him from his sandcastle," said one MP thuggishly, "and then kick sand in his face."

● *The luminous London taxi driven daily to the House of Commons by Simon Hughes, sandal-wearer and environment spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, is upsetting fellow MPs. They complain that he parks the ridiculous vehicle in a slot reserved for the disabled. His office is appalled by the slur. "Not true," they splutter. "It's parked next door to the disabled bays, not in them."*



"Months of beefburgers and suddenly it's all lamb chops"

Team colours

HE MAY have been banned from driving in February, but that hasn't deterred the Benetton Formula One team from taking on Jamie Blandford, wayward son of the Duke of Marlborough. He has just landed a job as organiser of VIP hospitality for the outfit.

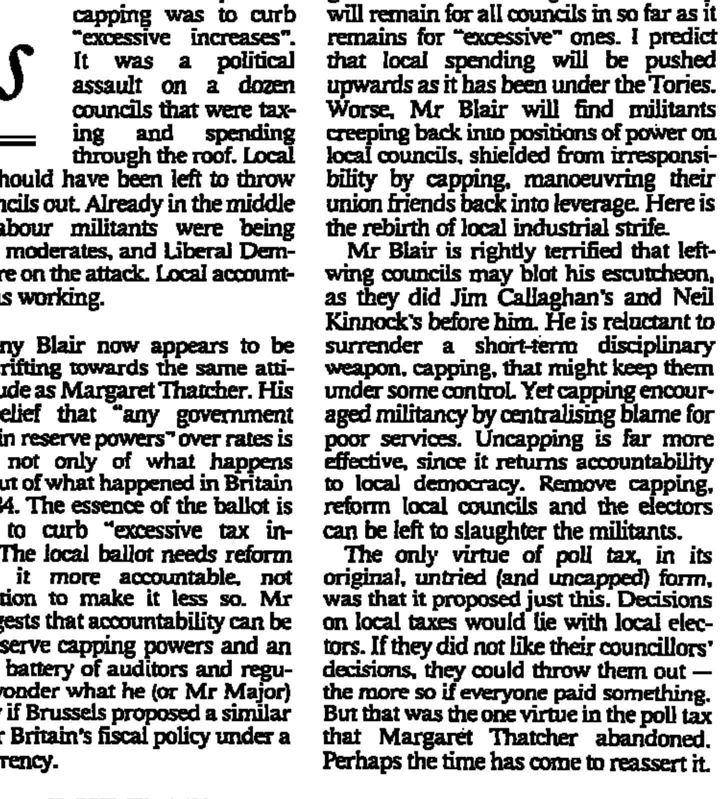
This is his second recent job in motor-racing. His last, as marketing director of racing-car company Brodie Brittain Racing of Brackley, ended ignominiously when he was found slumped over the wheel of his company Escort Cosworth on the A44 at Begbroke, in Oxfordshire. When police found him, he asked them which part of London he was in. Benetton insists that he has no need of a car in his new post.

● *The lightning strike at Buckingham Palace yesterday brings to mind the day in 1955 when the Queen narrowly escaped a similar incident because of a rail strike. A woman was killed and 46 others injured while sheltering from a storm by the Royal Box at an Ascot race meeting. The rail strike had forced the postponement of Royal Ascot, so Her Majesty stayed at home at a Buckingham Palace for a garden party.*

Written off

STUFFED SHIRTS at Buckingham Palace are doing their best to stymie the *Daily Mirror's* campaign to have the Princess of Wales restored to HRH status. First obstacle is the Queen's Proctor, the messy maritals fixer for the royals, who has refused to accept the 80,000-plus petitions so far collected by the *Mirror*. Buckingham Palace, meanwhile, refuses to open the Proctor's post. Time for a blindside move.

"We're going to have to go straight to the Queen," says the paper's Editor, Piers "Guten" Morgan. "She can't refuse 80,000 letters from her subjects. The Proctor's being a typical little proctor, so we're going to have to go straight to the horse's mouth, if you'll pardon the expression."



Dressing down: Stringfellow with his young partner

Half price

DESPITE the luke-warm audience response at the first night of *Voyeurz*, the smutty show carries a ban on under-18s. On Monday, one 17-year-old in a transparent dress leaving nothing to the imagination, slipped through the net on the arm of Peter Stringfellow, 55. It was Helen Benoist, the ageing nightclubber's girlfriend.

"She's seen it all before," he boasted, shimmering in a synthetic suit of his own and professing ignorance of the under-age rule. The theatre admitted that it had been caught on the hop. "We somehow assumed that a person of his advancing years would not be bringing a child."

P·H·S

A DEPRESSING RESHUFFLE

Clarke will now face no internal dissent

The Treasury has become a sceptic-free zone. With the departure of David Heathcoat-Amory. Kenneth Clarke has managed to reintroduce to his department his old PPS. Philip Oppenheim, a man who shares his federalist views. Any economic arguments against a single currency will now have to be made from outside.

Yesterday. Mr Heathcoat-Amory made them with admirable force in his pamphlet published by the Bruges Group. A lapidary piece of writing, it marshals a fine collection of unanswerable objections to tying diverse countries together in one exchange rate.

Neatly he demolishes the main claims. If Britain stayed out of EMU, would it not lose inward investment? No, the relative depreciation of sterling has not prevented Britain from winning 40 per cent of American and Japanese direct investment in the EU. Far more important than exchange rates are costs, taxes, labour relations and language.

Does not a single market need a single currency? The North American Free Trade Area has managed perfectly well without one. And given that more than half Britain's trade takes place with non-EU countries, the euro might actually be set at the wrong rate for Britain against their currencies. The (not very substantial) costs to businesses and individuals of exchanging currencies would fall, but these should be set against the immense costs to banks and retailers of changing to the euro.

Then Mr Heathcoat-Amory makes a forceful case against the single currency, one which every British politician should read. Monetary union can only work in an area, such as the United States, which has high labour mobility, labour flexibility and wages that move down as well as up. Otherwise depressed regions or countries remain depressed, with stubbornly high unemployment. They cannot depreciate their currencies or cut interest rates or increase their deficits in order to reflate their economies.

Even in America, though, where the necessary economic conditions exist, the federal government still has to smoothe out differences between rich and poor states through its own taxes and spending. If the European Union (which has none of the mobility or flexibility of America) wanted to do the same, it would have to ask member states to contribute four to five times the amount that they already do to Union funds. Britain's net contribution is already £38 billion. Would any Parliament sanction an increase to nearer £200 billion?

There is no indication that Mr Clarke has thought through these problems. The depressing element about the reshuffle is that the debate will now not even take place in the Treasury. The band of federalists in the Tory party may be dwindling, but Mr Clarke has managed to find one who will show no dissent. His department will now be wholly removed from the prevailing views on the government benches.

The other depressing aspect to this otherwise trivial rearrangement is what did not happen. Sir Nicholas Lyell, despite having been lacerated in the Scott report, remains Attorney-General. Douglas Hogg, surely one of the least competent Agriculture Ministers in memory, stays with the slurry. Other unimpressive Cabinet ministers remain to struggle on.

The trouble is that there are hardly mobs of talented ministers beating down the Cabinet door — though it is encouraging to see David Willetts rewarded with a promotion. One sign of a long drawn-out administration is that there are more gifted ex-ministers on the back benches than there are promising newcomers on their way up. Cabinets need a few "big beasts" in them; sadly none are now prowling outside the compound.

A PROCESS CONTINUES

Israel and the Palestine National Authority make progress

A meeting that ends with the pledge to hold more meetings may not seem especially exciting; but the talks held yesterday between Yassir Arafat and David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, achieved much simply by being the first to involve a member of the new Israeli Cabinet. At the same time Binyamin Netanyahu eased the restrictions on Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza working inside Israel, imposed in response to the wave of suicide bombings earlier this year.

These developments should be set against the gloomy predictions in many quarters that the electoral victory last May of the coalition led by Likud meant the end of the peace process. The cautious resumption of dialogue with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) reflects the inadequacies of that interpretation rather than any fundamental change in Mr Netanyahu. Reconciliation between Jews and Palestinians was so clearly in the interests of both parties that it was never likely to be jettisoned overnight. The peace process has changed emphasis but not purpose. A complete breakdown in order on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would threaten both Likud and the PNA: the desire to avoid that draws the two together.

The resumption of political contacts now has to be taken two steps further, both of which will require greater flexibility from the Israeli Prime Minister. The first is the need to end the uncertainty about the redeployment of the Israeli Army in Hebron, where Likud needs to balance its obligations to honour the existing commitment to withdraw with legitimate concerns for the security of Israeli settlers. A compromise should be possible. The second is that at some point Mr Netanyahu will need to deal directly and personally with Mr Arafat. The "final status" talks which began last May would have been difficult whichever Israeli party was in power — any Israeli goverment would have had to demonstrate that the result is, in the words of Mr Netanyahu's campaign pledge, a "secure peace" for Israel. What will be required over the next six months is rather less in the way of spectacular summitry, beyond that necessary for inter-authority machinery to run smoothly, and more of the sort of practical benefits signified by the easing of work permits. The process will grow in popular authority the more it can demonstrate tangible results.

Thus the agenda should focus on economic development and trade, infrastructure modernisation, and the sharing of key resources such as water, through a practical partnership between Israel, Jordan, and the PNA. These are the real quality of life issues in the region. As Mr Arafat helps to deliver progress of this sort, and a credible security policy, Mr Netanyahu should agree to greater autonomy in broader areas for the PNA. At this stage, speculation over what role, if any, Damascus might play or the ultimate status of Jerusalem is far more likely to sow divisions that extremists will exploit than to yield anything positive. Likud's tough line on terrorism may make it easier for it to experiment in these areas than was true for Labour.

The Arafat-Levy meeting is a promising beginning. A steady political dialogue creates the conditions for mutually beneficial co-operation on the ground. But it is on these bread and butter questions, rather than high diplomacy, that the pace of the process will ultimately prosper or falter.

YULE IN JULY

If you believe in Father Christmas, please log on

Christmas comes, but once a year is enough. Except in Copenhagen, where the 33rd World Santa Claus Congress opened yesterday. More than 150 Father Xmases from 18 countries sweated through the city, intoning their national versions of "Ho, ho, ho" — in the heatwave, whiskers and fur-trimmed scarlet shellsuits, they sounded "Hot, hot, hot". They were escorted by the Nordic elves who help them to deal out the presents, visited Parliament and ate a Christmas lunch with inspiriting Yuletide punch.

Most people go through three Santa Claus phases. First they believe in Santa Claus. Then they do not believe in Santa Claus. And finally they *are* Santa Claus. Moreover, for most people Christmas is the time when their credit card overdrafts are seasonally adjusted. However, that is no reason to shoot Father Christmas in July as unseasonal. Christmas is merely the outward and visible sign of his job of goodwill, just as his Sunday sermon should be the apex of the parson's week, not his job description.

For Father Christmas is big in Copenhagen. This is partly because of the Hans Andersen factor of sentimentality about children. But also because letters addressed to Father Christmas at the North Pole are disingenuously handled by the Royal Danish post office, with concomitant commercial and publicity crackers. And this year's Santa Claus Congress has to discuss a threat to its industry from cyberspace. Internet offers 1,100 different addresses for "Santa". The fear is that once computer-literate children discover this, they will conclude, in the words of the sledgeman of the congress, Ib Groth Rasmussen, that "the whole thing is a load of tosh", as well as a commercial rip-off.

So the deconstructionist version now says that there is not one single Father Christmas but a global network of Santas and elves operating an express delivery service. Father Christmas has already gone through enough transformations to make his postmodernist manifestation plausible. The child-loving bishop of Myra in Lycia became Saint Nikolaus, who bribed children with a stocking if they were good, and threatened them with a stick if they were bad. And then he was changed into the alarming old unisex person, smelling of beer after lunch, who terrorises the hyperstores of modern conspicuous shopping from October onwards.

And children as well as the children industry may find this latest version of the Father Christmas story acceptable. A multinational consortium of benevolent flying executives is as plausible to the modern child as a bumbling old fellow in a long white beard and red dressing-gown. And in any case children are as practical about Christmas as politicians are about election returns. Father Christmas's stocking may be in. But there is the Uncle John return to be declared, and the Aunt Isabel ward still to come in. Children believe in what they can see and work. So the modern Yuletide instruction is not, "If you believe in Father Christmas, post your letter up the chimney." It goes, "If you believe in Father Christmas, log on."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Support for postal privatisation plan

From Mr George Guise

Sir, The Government's intention to suspend the Post Office monopoly unless postal workers call off their strike action (report, July 23) is correct. If it does not do so, it will be preventing the independent delivery of private letters when people who have protected jobs in the Royal Mail are refusing to make deliveries.

No modern government is elected to deliver letters, parcels and magazines, any more than it is elected to prevent the free market causing these things to happen automatically and efficiently.

Suspending the monopoly is neither provocative nor doctrinaire. It is simply a modern response to a Neanderthal threat, permitting market forces to do what the strikers will not. This is quite different from using the Army to drive ambulances or transport coal.

If new Labour does not support suspension in the event of a continuous strike, it will reveal much about the relative importance they ascribe to an efficient infrastructure.

Those "Clause 4 Conservatives" who frustrated privatisation, on the spurious grounds that it would lead to inefficiency, should be deeply ashamed at this, the first blight of an industry which they have left to wither on the vine.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE GUISE
(Prime Minister's Policy
Unit (1986-90)),
90 Longacre, WC2.
July 23.

Gift to Oxford

From Mr George Racz

Sir, You report today that Mr Wafic Said's gift of £20 million to Oxford University may not be accepted because of the donor's "business background".

The inference of your report is that opposition to the gift is based on Mr Said's help to British Aerospace in clinching an arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

It is offensive, and it will deter from further offers those whose munificence has kept our most prestigious institutions alive, if before a donation is accepted the donor has to prove that the moneys offered did not come from arms deals, or from the killing of endangered species, or the sale of sealskins or elephant tusks.

The potential use of money is far more important than its origin. Let us accept all donations with gratitude, without investigating their provenance.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE RACZ,
7 Wellington House,
Eton Road, NW3.
July 17.

Stone of Scone

From Mr R. G. C. Cowe

Sir, Now that the Stone of Scone is back in the news (letters, July 17), I think it timely to recall what I suggested to you in a letter 45 years ago (January 6, 1951) about the Stone's eventual resting place. My suggestion is still relevant.

Some want the Stone to be north of the Tweed; others want it to be on English soil. As a native of the only town in the Kingdom which fulfils both of these requirements — Berwick-upon-Tweed — may I recommend that the Stone should come to rest there?

Not only would this be acceptable to the shade of Edward I; it would also give a welcome acknowledgement to the commendable efforts of the good folk of Berwick in the field of historic conservation.

Yours faithfully,
COLLIN COWE,
Brookside Cottage,
Brook End,
Chadlington, Oxford.
July 17.

From Dr Denis O'Brien

Sir, It is true, as Mr Geoffrey Hinton tells us (letter, July 17) that, despite the ravages of the revolution, the former Abbey of St Denis outside Paris does still contain a splendid series of royal tombs.

But unfortunately that is only half the truth. The royal tombs of St Denis are today, all of them, empty.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS O'BRIEN,
Château du Chalange,
61390 Courtomer,
Orne, France.
July 18.

Salmon stocks

From the Secretary of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (Nasco)

Sir, Mr Orri Vigfusson, Chairman of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, refers in his letter of July 13 to the failure of Nasco to reach a salmon quota this year for West Greenland. In fact the 1995 Nasco quota for Greenland was just 77 tonnes, and for 1996 Nasco was discussing a quota of similar levels — a far cry from the catches of over 2,500 tonnes taken at West Greenland before Nasco was formed in 1984.

Sadly, the problem is much more complex than Mr Vigfusson appears to realise. The main threats to the future of the wild salmon lie in huge losses in its habitat in fresh water; in illegal fishing; in fishing by flag states not party to the Nasco Convention; in the potential for unknown genetic impacts from escaped farmed salmon; in the transmission of diseases and parasites to wild stocks from salmon in sea cages; in the impact of predators and of industrial fishing; and in losses seemingly due to unfavourable marine conditions that we do not understand.

There is also the question of overfishing; but the level of fishing for salmon has been drastically reduced almost everywhere in the North Atlantic as a conservation measure, in recognition of obligations under the Nasco Treaty. That is one reason why we see such a fall in catches.

Commercial netting occurs in some countries, and Nasco deals with any international issues in this area; but it cannot intervene in sharing the catch between the commercial fishermen and anglers of one party to the treaty. It is unfortunate that Mr Vigfusson should attack an inter-governmental body, acting internationally to conserve salmon, on such a narrow issue.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM WINDSOR,
Secretary,
North Atlantic Salmon
Conservation Organisation (Nasco),
11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh.
July 17.

Meeting criteria for monetary union

From the Director of the European Movement

Sir, The tax-cutting policies advocated by John Redwood in his populist article of July 18, "Clark must live within our means", are not precluded by the monetary union criteria. Member states can choose to cut taxes as much as they like as long as they cut spending as well: the criteria simply seek to ensure public-sector budgetary discipline by keeping borrowing under control.

Member states within the future monetary union can have high spending and high taxes or low spending and low taxes. This is rightly a matter for domestic debate. What they cannot do is have high borrowing.

In order to fulfil the criteria for monetary union many member states are doing exactly what Redwood would advocate as a first step to economic recovery: cutting spending to reduce public borrowing, leading to reduced interest rates and faster economic growth. But what Redwood demands at home as part of an economic panacea, he seems to damn abroad as a failure to deal with unemployment.

Finding money for tax cuts, or otherwise, is a domestic problem and has nothing to do with the criteria for monetary union

Isn't it time for the anti-Europeans to stop using the European Union as a scapegoat for all their frustrations and to engage in a serious debate about whether Britain should participate in European monetary union when it is established in three years time?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WOODARD,
Director,
European Movement —
United Kingdom,
Dean Bradley House,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1.
July 18.

Children's fears of exam pressure

From the Chief Executive of The Samaritans

Sir, George Turnbull, spokesman for the Associated Examining Board and Southern Examining Group, claims (Education, July 19) that ChildLine and Samaritan "spin doctors" fuel fear in schools at exam time.

Last August, The Samaritans conducted an awareness-raising campaign when exam results came out; and, this summer, the charity will again advertise on radio stations with the message, "Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you".

Such publicity aims to emphasise the importance of talking about feelings before they become potentially overwhelming, and to make sure young people realise that The Samaritans are there to help them, if ever they want to talk to someone in confidence. We do not believe that such publicity exacerbates young people's problems.

We make no claims that exams increase suicide rates, but we are targeting young people at a time when some may feel under intense strain. Disappointments can be intense. An accumulation of pressures — exams, family or personal expectations, growing independence — could lead a young person to despair and the contemplation of suicide.

It is all too easy for adults to dismiss the highly charged emotions that teenagers experience. The Samaritans take them seriously. Talking and finding yourself listened to can help put the future into perspective, in some cases make a future seem more possible. There are, of course, no statistics for suicides prevented.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON ARMSON,
Chief Executive, The Samaritans,
10 The Grove, Slough, Berkshire.
July 22.

From the Chief Executive of ChildLine

Sir, ChildLine did not put the fear of exams into children. It was there already.

While insisting that "the overwhelming majority of students . . . are not unduly concerned about their exams or schoolwork", George Turnbull takes ChildLine to task over its research into young people's attitudes to examinations.

Nowhere did we suggest that the young people in our schools survey who said they were worried about their exams felt suicidal; however, 13 of the 196 children who called ChildLine last year about exams said they were feeling suicidal — and one said that she had actually attempted suicide.

We make no apology whatsoever for alerting parents to the need to support their children through a stressful time.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE HOWARTH,
Chief Executive, ChildLine,
Royal Mail Building,
Studd Street, N1.
July 23.

Pub names

From Norroy & Ulster King of Arms

Sir, I thoroughly sympathise with Nicholas Winterton's campaign to save our old pub names (letters, July 18, 20, 22).

In 1978 I was told that the brewery and the local authority had no powers to stop the new owner of the "Salmon & Ball" in Bethnal Green from renaming it "Tipples". The inn had been a landmark since at least the early 18th century and had witnessed many historic events including the hanging of rebellious weavers.

Such houses are often built on street corners and, where redevelopment has taken place, can provide the only remaining link with a bygone street pattern.

Their names are part of our cultural history and only a few months ago I was asked to write a foreword to a well-illustrated Japanese book on historic English pub signs which I am told is selling well.

Yours faithfully,
HUBERT CHESSHYRE,
Norroy & Ulster King of Arms,
College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

From Mr George Ball

Sir, Pub names belong to the nation. For travellers they are at once a history book, an art gallery and a source of delight (the first words which my infant daughter ever read to me were "The Fox").

For drinkers the only name that counts is that of the licensee: the man who keeps an orderly house, who cashes a cheque, who takes a message and who on occasion provides an alibi. Within that fraternity the pub is often known by a former landlord's name.

It is to cover the dearth of great landlords that the marketing men of the pub chains are trying to standardise this part of our unique heritage and kid us that all of their pubs are the same. They are not.

Cheers!
GEORGE BALL,
The Wall House,
Wimborne Road, Leicester.

From Mr Stephen Cox

Sir, The debate about pub names, however welcome, is missing a much wider issue. Historic pub interiors are being destroyed, the cosy multi-room floor plan eliminated, and some unfortunate pubs receive drastic refurbishment every three to five years.

CAMRA's concern is for the pub as a whole. Certainly there are cases where the change of name removes an historic landmark, or where the name change is part of much wider changes. But no doubt "The Railway" and "The Garibaldi" were tasteless modern names in their time. To save the pub's name and lose its soul is a pyrrhic victory.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN COX
(Campaigns manager),
Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA),
230 Hatfield Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
July 22.

From Mrs D. Sullivan

Sir, In Warrington there was a pub in the 1730s called the "Bricklayers Arms". In the 1790s it became "The Dog and Partridge". In 1798 it became "The Jolly Butcher". In 1810 it became "The Curriers Arms". In the 1830s it became the "Saint Patrick". In the 1840s it went back to "The Curriers Arms". It kept this last name until its closure in 1893.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY SULLIVAN,
8 Menin Avenue,
Warrington, Cheshire.
July 21.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

German 'Creation' at the Proms

From Professor Emeritus Nicholas Temperley

Sir, Richard Morrison ("First Night of the Proms", later editions, July 20) questions the decision to sing Haydn's *The Creation* in German to an English audience because, he says, "Haydn was inspired to write it by the English choral tradition", and "it demands a direct link to the listener." He is quite right, but the reasons are much weightier than those he offers.

The original text was English and was adapted to German by Haydn's patron, Gottfried van Swieten, in such a way that the German text would fit as closely as possible to the English (including the Authorised Version) in sense and rhythm. When Haydn wrote the music he had both texts in mind. He set the German and hoped that the English would fit equally well, although in practice Swieten had to make many further adjustments.

The point is that Haydn wanted his masterpiece to be performed in England, to be well understood there, and to take its place beside Handel's oratorios. After all, it had originally been commissioned by Salomon for performance in London. Haydn himself published the full score in 1800 with bilingual (German/English) title-page and text. Rather than leave the English text to the mercy of an unknown translator, he supervised the process himself, preserving most of the original English words.

So, if we are to do what the composer intended, we should sing *The Creation* in English when the audience is predominantly English-speaking. Unfortunately, Haydn's English text, as adjusted by Swieten, has many faulty rhythms and is unusable in places. At least 20 "improved" English versions have been published since 1800, many of them freely rewriting the text. Which version to use is a matter of taste, but there is no case for choosing German, which vitiates the composer's clear intentions.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS TEMPERLEY,
43 Abbey Road, NW8.
July 20.

Broadcasting opera

From the Director of the Arts House Foundation

Sir, Making it mandatory for the largest opera and ballet companies to broadcast a certain number of performances without extra fees (letters, July 13, 19) would certainly make the regular public subsidy more acceptable to people who live too far from the great centres to ever be able to enjoy a visit.

The weakness of television as a medium for delivering opera is, however, that most living rooms do not make good substitute opera houses — the screen is too small, the sound indifferent, and there are disruptions.

This foundation has already put a scheme to the Arts Council for creating a widespread net of small theatres specially designed for presenting television relays to a high standard — not only of opera and ballet but of concerts, specially produced dramas, computer-generated art, talks, tours of art exhibitions.

A hundred such rooms could enable up to 30,000 people daily to join live audiences in enjoying the work of companies based all over the UK — extending the precedent of 40,000 people enjoying a relay of the Last Night of the Proms on just one evening in London.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN DARTINGTON, Director,
Arts House Foundation,
6 Chiltern Road,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
July 22.

Student drinking

From Mr Harry Brampton

Sir, We should beware of jumping to hasty conclusions about the present scale of student drinking based on your report, "Student drinkers push campus bar bills over £44 million" (July 22).

On your front page on the same day a report ("Right to see school references") suggests that fewer than 300,000 new students will join universities this year, and that therefore the total student population is around one million.

If the annual take in student bars is £44 million (not all on alcohol), simple calculation suggests that an average student spends some £1.50 per week over the course of an academic year of 30 weeks. A very responsible attitude, I think.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY BRAMPTON,
57 Westfields,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
July 22.

Out to grass?

From Mr Geoff Covey

Sir, Your brief overseas item today, "Preacher, 136, meets his maker", refers to the late mosque preacher as "retired". Was this necessary? Not even judges continue employment into their second century.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. COVEY,
36 Bernays Close,
Stanmore, Middlesex.
July 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 23: His Excellency Brigadier General Ratu Nailatikau and Mrs Nailatikau were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Fiji to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Dr Zac Nsenga was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Rwanda to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Nsenga was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Field Marshal Sir John Stanier was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Constable of the Tower of London.

The Queen held a Council at 12.30 pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Lord Fraser of Carmyllie (Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry) and the Rt Hon William Hague MP (Secretary of State for Wales).

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown, MP, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton MP, the Rt Hon Sir Mark Potter and the Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith MP were sworn in as members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The Rt Hon Robin Cook MP made affirmation as a member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

Mr Christopher Horne was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr David Griffin was received by The Queen when Her Majesty decorated him with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of The Scots Guards and The King's Division Normandy played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Neasden, London NW10.

His Royal Highness, Master, this evening attended a Dinner at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Mrs Robert de Pass as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 23: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Pegasus Project, this afternoon attended the Annual Luncheon at Skinners' Hall, 8½ Dowgate Hill, London EC4.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 23: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 23: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning held a Board Meeting at Highgrove House.

His Royal Highness afterwards received the Mayor of Tetbury and others to discuss the re-use of the former railway yard.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 23: The Princess Margaret Countess of Snowdon, Patron, The Zebra Trust and Zebra Housing Association, this evening opened the redesigned garden and play area at Impala House, 8 Chalcot Square, London NW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Caldecott Community Hope Appeal, will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, will attend a regimental reception at Lincoln's Inn at 6.30.

Princess Alexandra will name the new Great Yarmouth and Gorleston lifeboat of the RNLI at the Lifeboat House, Riverside Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, at 2.30.

Service dinner

The Royal Logistic Corps
Earl Howe, Under Secretary of State for Defence, was the principal guest at a dinner held last night in the Central Criminal Court (The Old Bailey) to commemorate the third anniversary of the forming of The Royal Logistic Corps. Alderman and Sheriff Sir Peter Levene, Honorary Colonel Commandant; Major General C.E.G. Carrington, The Representative Colonel Commandant; and Major General M.S. White, Director General Logistic Support (Army), co-hosted the Dinner.

Election

Mr Paul Pia of W & J Burness W.S., Edinburgh, has been elected chairman of the Japan Society of Scotland *in succession to Mr James T. Howat.*

Birthdays today

Mr John Ambler, former chairman, Texaco, 62; Baroness Blatch, 59; Mr Julian Brazier, MP, 43; Mr George H. Brown, film producer, 83; Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman and chief executive, Lex Service, 61; Mr Robin Cutler, director-general, Forestry Commission, 62; Lord Digby, 72; Lord Fisher, 75; Sir Edward Ford, secretary and registrar, Order of Merit, 86; M Jacques Fouroux, rugby player, 49; Professor Derek Fraser, Vice-Chancellor, Teesside University, 56.

Lord Hambro, 66; Mr J.W. Hele, former High Master, St Paul's School, 70; Mr Wilfred Josephs, composer, 69; Vice-Admiral Sir David Loram, 72; Mr Neil McIntosh, former director, VSO, 49; Mr Edwin Mirvish, proprietor, Old Vic Theatre, 82; Sir David Simon, Chairman, The British Petroleum Company, 57; Mr Chris Smith, MP, 45; Sir Colin Southgate, chairman Thorn EMI, 58; Miss Nora Swinburne, actress, 94; Mr Quinlan Terry, architect, 59; Professor Frank Thistlethwaite, *founding Vice-Chancellor*, University of East Anglia, 81; Mr Peter Yates, film director and producer, 67.

Drapers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Drapers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton; Wardens, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Mr N G W Playne, Mr P A F Chalk, Mr D W S Handley.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Nicola Atkins, 10, left, and Rebecca Williams, 11, with some of the strawberries that they and fellow pupils from Engaines County Primary School, of Little Clacton, Essex, have grown to exhibition standard for the show

A flower show bursting with tasty delights

By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent

THE Royal Horticultural Society's flower show at Westminster is a feast of edible delights. Mouthwatering displays of fruits and vegetables have been staged by amateur and professional growers.

The RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey, is showing award-winning vegetables from its trials. There are *round and French Breakfast type radishes* including well-known "Cherry Belle", "Sparkler" and "French Breakfast".

Salad onions include non-bulbing Japanese cultivars such as "Ishiko" and "Ishikura", which are much sought after by supermarkets. Spring-sown spinach has also been on trial and award winners include the well-known "Long Standing". Dwarf French beans grown in a plastic tunnel range from flat-podded cultivars such as "The Prince", to cylindrical podded, including "Aramis" and "Annabel".

There is also a collection of soft fruits from Wisley, old and new cultivars. Some of the newest raspberries bred at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dundee, are featured, inluding "Glen Ample", "Glen Rosa" and "Glen Magna", all heavy croppers with spine-free stems. They are not yet generally available.

Pupils from Engaines County Primary School, of Little Clacton, Essex, have mastered the growing of strawberries to exhibition standard and staged an exhibit at this show. The 30 ten and eleven-year-olds have grown the plants with guidance from well-known fruit grower, Ken Muir, of Weeley Heath, Essex, visiting his nursery at the end of each school day to care for the plants. The best of the crop is on display including the top cultivars "Elsanta", "Hapil" and "Tamella", plus the new "Emily" and "Eros".

Rougham Hall Nurseries, of Rougham, Suffolk, perhaps better known for their displays of herbaceous plants, have provided a rare opportunity to see a comprehensive collection of gooseberries. They range from green cultivars such as "Keepsake", through yellows such as "Early Sulphur" to red-skinned cultivars, including "Lancashire Lad".

The RHS summer fruit and vegetable competition is well supported and the RHS Hogg medal for a collection of six dishes of fruit has been won by W. F. Brader, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The affiliated societies' class for six dishes of fruits has been won by the Hayes (Kent) & District Horticultural Society. Both exhibitors have included the popular exhibition gooseberry "Leveller".

S. Moorhouse, of Wanstead, London, has won the class for six kinds of vegetables, and Owen Paul, of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire, the class for four kinds. Both are featuring the cauliflower "Nautilus".

The show, which opened yesterday, also features summer-flowering plants, from sweet peas to fuchsias. Over 40 kinds of lavender from Downderry Nursery, of Ditton, Kent, are creating an aromatic display and include a range of tender kinds from Mediterranean areas, North Africa and the Canaries, such as *Lavandula dentata* cultivars with tooth-edged leaves, which, according to proprietor Dr Simon Charlesworth, are set to become popular plants for conservatories and summer interest on the patio. Angel pelargoniums are being featured by Fir Trees Pelargonium Nursery, of Stokesley, Cleveland. These are very much in vogue and have toppled the regal pelargoniums from their position as one of our favourite pot plants, as they are more floriferous and bloom throughout the summer. Two new ones are being featured: "Cottenham Surprise" (burgundy and pink with frilled petals) and "Cottenham Beauty" (deep purple and pale pink). The exhibit has been awarded a gold medal.

Other gold medallists are Matthewman's Nursery, of Thorpe Audlin, North Yorkshire, showing sweet peas, the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, of London, showing floral arrangements, and Park Green Nurseries, of Stowmarket, Suffolk, who have a display of herbaceous perennials and grasses.

The British National Carnation Society's summer show is being held with the RHS show. Best exhibit is a vase of 12 blooms of clear yellow perpetual-flowering carnation "Sunrise", shown by J. B. Tonks, of North Hykeham, Lincolnshire. Mrs D. K. Ryder, of Sidcup, Kent, has won the prize for best exhibit in the floral art section.

Gerald Goddard, of Chingford, Essex, is a leading prizewinner in the RHS ornamental plants' competition. His vase of miniature kniphofias ("Gold Else", "Little Elf" and *K. galpinii*) is particularly noteworthy as the flower spikes are in perfect condition.

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Legal appointments

Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Justice General and Lord President of the Court of Session in Scotland, and Lord Clyde, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, have been appointed Lords of Appeal in Ordinary in place of Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle who will be retiring on September 30.

Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, has been appointed as Lord Justice General and President of the Court of Session in Scotland. He replaces Lord Hope of Craighead who becomes a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

Inner Temple

Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, Mrs Ruth Deech, Professor Ian Kennedy and Captain Patrick Sheehan, RN, have been elected Honorary Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Memorial service

The Ven Peter Mallett
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Ven Peter Mallett, former Chaplain-General to the Forces, was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Right Rev John Kirkham, Bishop to the Forces, officiated. The Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, Chaplain-General to the Forces, read the lesson and Mr Jonathan Mallett, son, read *Of Joy and Sorrow* from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. The Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, gave an address. The Rev Roy McAllen was robed and in the Sanctuary. Among others present were:

Mrs Mallett (widow), Miss Judy Mallett (daughter), Mr and Mrs Andrew Miller (son-in-law and daughter), Mlle Stella Bataille (daughter-in-law), Jonty Usborne and Natalie Miller (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Anthony Mallett (brother and sister-in-law), Mr Stephen Mallett.

The Right Rev Ambrose Weekes, Mrs John Kirkham, Lieutenant-General Sir James Baird; General Sir Martin Farndale (Master Gunner, St James's Park), Lieutenant-General Sir Allan Taylor, Major-General Sir Desmond and Lady Rice, Major-General Sir Roy and Lady Redgrave, the Rev Sir Derek Pattinson.

Mr and Mrs John Miller, Mr Donald Miller, Miss A Miller, Mrs Rosemary Usborne, Mr Robert Usborne, Mrs Gillian Usborne, Simon Usborne, the Very Rev Trevor Beeson, Canon James Free, Canon John Bown, the Rev Adrian Pollard, the Rev Freddie and Mrs White, the Rev Frank Johnston, the Rev Leslie and Mrs Skinner, the Rev John and Mrs Barrie, the Rev John and Mrs Cross, the Rev R L Hancock, the Rev J D S Coates, the Rev Philip and Mrs Morgan, the Rev Patricia Snow.

Major-General and Mrs W Odling, Major-General Brian Davis, Major-General and Mrs Michael Reynolds, Major-General K Spacie, Major-General Robert McAfee (Colonel Commandant, Royal Tank Regiment) with Colonel John Longman (Regimental Colonel) and Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Rodley (Commanding Officer, 1 RTR), Major-General R Mans, Brigadier P J F Palmer, Brigadier Norman Allen, Brigadier H C Milman, Colonel R C J Martin, Colonel P V Panton (Regimental Secretary, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) also representing the Colonel of the Regiment).

Lieutenant-Colonel A Beattie; Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs M J Darmody, Lieutenant-Colonel R M Everard, Lieutenant-Colonel M A Lowry, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Peter Swanson, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Crosby, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Peter Roupell, Mr and Mrs Bruce Farthing, Mr Tim Roupell, Mr Chris Roupell, Mrs Fiona Harrison, Mrs A Russell, Mr Oliver Blunt, QC, Mr James Stuart-Smith, QC, and Mrs Stuart-Smith, Mrs M Ward-Booth, Miss M Wilson, Councillor Ian Dewey, Mr Roy Thompson.

Mrs J Jacobs (representing the Bishop of Norwich and Mrs Nott), Mrs Ruth Call and Mrs Mary Merritt (vice-presidents, Guild of St Helena), the Rev Handel H C Bennett (Raymond Cook Christian Tours) and Mrs Bennett, representatives of King's College, London, the Parish of St Oswald, Norbury, the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, The Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Royal Tank Regiment Association, the Royal Regiment of Artillery Association, the Royal British Legion, the Army Benevolent Fund, the Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, the Templar Pilgrimage Trust and many other friends.

Appointment

Sir Nigel Mobbs to be Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire in succession to Lord Cottesloe, who retires on January 1, 1997.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Simon Bolivar, "Liberator" of South America, Caracas, Venezuela, 1783; Alexandre Dumas *père*, novelist and playwright, Villers-Cotterêts, 1802; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Hanover, 1864; E.F. Benson, novelist, Wellington College, Berkshire, 1867; Ernst Bloch, composer, Geneva, 1880; Amelia Earhart, aviator, Atchison, Kansas, 1897.

DEATHS: George Vertue, engraver, London, 1756; Matthew Webb, the first English Channel swimmer, drowned in an attempt to swim the Niagara Falls rapids, 1883; Sacha Guitry, actor and playwright, Paris, 1957; Peter Sellers, actor, London, 1980.

Jacques Cartier landed in Canada claiming the country for France, 1534.

Abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, 1567.

First life peerages established in Britain, 1958.

Gibraltar taken by the British, 1704.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.A.St C. Barrow
and Miss O.S. Smerdon
The engagement is announced between Paul Achilles St Clair Barrow and Ondine Sasha Smerdon, of 62 Abercrombie Street, Battersea, London SW11.

Mr J.P. Cooke
and Miss C.G. George
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Peter, second son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Cooke, of Norwich, and Constance Grace, second daughter of Mr Robert George and Mrs Miranda Gordon-George, also of Norwich.

Mr N.R. Dawbarn
and Dr V.M.M. Blackburn
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs M.L. Dawbarn, of Cirencester, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Blackburn, of London, NW5.

Mr J.C.O. Hutchison
and Miss A. Triviño
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Geordie Hutchison, of Welby, Lincolnshire, and Adriana, daughter of the late Don Gracian Triviño Susanna and Doña Ma Luisa Barros Santos, of Madrid.

Mr J.L. Litton
and Miss C.E. Lowthian
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the Hon Mr Justice Litton, OBE, of Stanley, Hong Kong, and Mrs Jennifer Litton, of Longhoughton, Northumberland, and Christine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Lowthian, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr F.-B. Roux
and Miss C.S. Buffle
The engagement is announced between Francis-Bernard, youngest son of M and Mme Richard Roux, of Montreal, Canada, and Christine Suzanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Buffle, of Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr M.J. Smith
and Miss A.R.C. Simm
The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mrs Dorothea Mackay, of Taunton, Somerset, and Athene, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Simm, of Gussage All Saints, Dorset.

Marriages

Mr O.P. Benn
and Miss T. da Thao
The marriage took place quietly in London recently of Mr Oliver Benn, only son of the late Captain and Mrs Christopher Benn, to Miss Tran da Thao, younger daughter of Mr Tran van Trong and Mrs Le Thi Nhi, of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It will be followed by a Buddhist ceremony of blessing.

Mr W.H.S. Hornby
and Miss S.Z. Edge
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ilmington, of Mr William Hornby, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hornby, to Miss Samantha Edge, daughter of Mr Graeme Edge and of Mrs Carol Edge. The Rev Victor Story officiated.

The reception was held at Foxcote House and the honeymoon will be spent in Thailand.

Mr N.K.H. Pulsford
and Miss J.C. Rose
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 20, in London, between Mr Nigel Pulsford, son of the late Mr Kenneth Pulsford and of Mrs Madeline Pulsford, and Miss Judith Rose, elder daughter of Dr John and Dr Teresa Rose.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and attended by her sister, Miss Georgina Rose, and by Miss Nasim Mawji. Mr Adam Hart Dyke was best man.

The honeymoon will be spent in Paris.

Mr A.R. Rogers
and Dr G. West
The marriage took place on July 19, 1996, in London, of Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Rogers, of Ellary, Argyll, and Genevieve, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard West, of Ratclyffe House, Devon.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Even were I to walk through a valley of deepest darkness I should fear no harm, for you are with me.
Psalm 23 : 4 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALLBEE - On July 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Jennifer and Thomas Allbee, a beautiful daughter, Amanda Jane.

BARTON - Harry Patrick Crawford, a beautiful big baby boy, born 17th July 1996 to Nicolas and Heather, the proudest parents alive.

BENNETT - On July 19th 1996, to Susan (née Baxter) and Jonathan, a son, Matthew William, a brother for Edward, Elizabeth and Olivia.

BIRD - On Tuesday 23rd July, to Lucia and Simon, a daughter, Hermione Frances, a sister for Camilla.

CURATI-ALASONATTI - On 21st July at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Judith (née Payne) and Walter, a son, Robert Walter Antonio, a brother for Clotilde Emma.

DENYER - On July 20th, to Catherine (née Davis) and Thomas, a daughter.

FARLÉ - On 1st July, to Caron and Michel, a son, Oliver Sebastian, a brother for Aimée.

FIRTH - On July 13th, to Jane and Andrew, a daughter, Susannah Elizabeth, a sister for David and Simon.

GRAVE - On July 12th, to Charlie and Penny (née Lay), a son, George.

HARRIES - On 21st July 1996, to Priscilla and Mark, a beautiful son, Luke.

JACK - On 21st July, to Ann (née Hodgson) and Alistair, a son, William (Will) David John, a brother for Emily and Alice.

JARVIS - On 17th July, to Vivien (née Erskine-Murray) and John, a son, William Tom.

KENMORE - To Joanne (née Perry) and Richard, a son, Samuel David, on his father's birthday July 19th at Princess Royal Hospital, Sussex.

MATTOO - On 5th June 1996 in Singapore, to Fatima and Mehrul, a daughter, Farah.

BIRTHS

METTAWA - On 19th July, to Philippa (née McGuigan) and Nader, a son, Zachaeus Hugh.

MILLER - On 10th July 1996, to Amanda (née Lyon) and James, a daughter, Sophia Charlotte Mary.

NICKERSON - On 21st July 1996, to Rachel (née Goulding) and Hugh, a daughter, Eleanor Kate Stewart.

OSBORN - On July 19th 1996, to Samantha (née Rowe) and Rupert, a son, Oliver James.

PAGE - On July 20th, to Michael and Rachel, a son, Christian Frederick Fielding, a brother for Madeline.

PELHAM-LANE - On July 17th 1996, to Lois (née Weir) and Geoffrey, a daughter, Lucinda Alison, a sister for Charles.

PRITCHARD-GORDON - On 20th July 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Romana (née Morton) and Gavin, a daughter, Rosanna Lily.

REITMAN - On July 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Katrina and Stephen, a beautiful daughter, Leah Antina, a sister for Rebecca.

ROBERTS - On July 4th, to Steven and Caroline, a beautiful son, Huw Philip, a brother for Jim and Owen.

SIEFF - On 21st July 1996 at 3.38 pm at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Hayley (née Barnard) and Jonathan, a handsome son, Jack Elliott.

WARRE CORNISH - On July 14th in Brussels, to Penelope (née Farrant) and Alexander, a daughter, Elizabeth Alexandra, a sister for Kate, Harriet and Anna.

DEATHS

AESCHBACKER SOUTH - Max on 22nd July in Zurich, beloved husband of Ann and much loved father of son Patrick and daughter Suzanne. After a long and courageous battle against illness. Will be much missed by all family and friends. Private family funeral.

DEATHS

ANDREW - Jim very suddenly on 14th July in Barbados aged 59. Cricket professional at Clifton College for over 30 years, formerly played for Gloucestershire CCC. Dearly loved and sorely missed by Karen, Anna, Paul, Liz and Callum. Funeral at Clifton College Chapel 11 am Monday 29th July followed by private cremation. Please no flowers but donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation c/o Thomas Davis, Southville Lodge, Southville Road, Bristol BS3 1DJ.

BLACKMORE - Kathleen (née Dunkels), sister of Cynthia Weller and Marjorie Dunkels, on July 9th aged 86.

BOWMAN - Nicholas John, dearly loved son of Jean and Dennis, of West Drayton and beloved brother of Sarah and Kate, died suddenly on July 19th aged 38 years after a long illness courageously borne. Funeral Service at 12 noon Tuesday July 30th at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, Middlesex. All enquiries to H.C. Grimstead, tel: (01895) 431000.

BREWIN - On Wednesday 17th July 1996 peacefully in Harley Court N.H., Sevenoaks, Kent, Mary Anderson Brewin, widow of Frank, mother of Donald and Peter and much loved grandmother. Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Walton Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, on Tuesday July 30th 1996 at 2pm. Garden flowers only but if so desired donations to the Treasurer, Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA), Wickham Cottage, Gaddesden Turn, Billington, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9BW. Enquiries to Welham Jones Funeral Director, 156 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1DJ, tel: (01732) 742400.

DEATHS

CAIRNS - On July 22nd peacefully in hospital, Gillian Margaret Carrol, widow of Bobby, sister of Nigel, honoured aunt and great-aunt, cousin of Bubbles and Sarah. Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday 30th July at Oxford Crematorium at 1.30 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to charities of your choice c/o J.W. Marcham & Sons Funeral Directors, 58 Wood Street, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0AY, tel: (01491) 836145.

CAMERON - On July 21st, peacefully at Lyme Regis, aged 86 years, Beatrice Mariell, dearly loved wife of Colin, daughter of the late Sir Cuthbert and Lady Whitaker and friend to a great many. Funeral will be at St Peter and St Paul Church, Uplyme, on Friday July 26th at 2.30pm. Floral tributes to Wakely & Son, tel: (01297) 443835.

COUSINS - Edmund George (E.G.). On 9th July peacefully at home in his 103rd year, loving husband of the late Bobbie, much missed and loved friend of daughters Doreen (Toffee) and Mike and of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At his wish cremation has taken place.

DEW - Of Westwood, MA, USA, formerly of Bermuda, England and New York. July 12th, Leslie Robert, beloved husband of Patricia (Hyde) and father of Robert Dew of Chicago, ILL, USA. Brother of Daphne Frampton of England, and grandfather of Stephanie and Christopher Dew. Services and interment were private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association, One Kendall Square, Bldg 200, Cambridge, MA, USA, 02139-1562 would be appreciated.

DUTTA - Sudhir K, on 17th July aged 57, beloved husband of Annie and father of Rita and Peter. Funeral Friday 26th July 1 pm St Marylebone Crematorium. Flowers c/o Cooksey & Son, 190 Fortis Green Road, N10 3DU.

DEATHS

FFYTCHE - Margaret (née Law) on July 20th. Much loved by Timothy, Bärbi, Dominic and Mattias and all who knew her. Funeral private - A Memorial Service will be arranged later. No flowers please: but donations, if desired, may be made to Friends of Moorfields.

HAYNES - Greta, died peacefully on 20th July at Preston House, Cirencester. Funeral Tuesday August 6th, All Hallows, South Cerney, at 3 pm. No flowers. Donations to Phoenix House Surgery, Cirencester.

HEGINBOTHAM - Daniel Robert on July 11th 1996 suddenly whilst on holiday in France aged 57 years. Beloved husband of Jane. Funeral Service at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 29th July at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired in aid of Bedford Modern School may be sent to Clarabut & Plumbe, 11 Kingsway, Bedford. tel: (01234) 354547.

HOLLAND - Anneliese peacefully at home on July 22nd 1996. Funeral Service to take place at the Danish Church, 4/5 St Catherines Precinct, Regents Park, NW1 4HH, on Friday July 26th at 2.30 pm followed by cremation at Amersham Crematorium at 5 pm. A reception will be held at The Mill, Henley Road, Medmenham, near Marlow, Bucks., tel: (01491) 571224. No flowers by request. Donations if desired for The Mount Vernon Centre for Cancer Treatment c/o E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon. OX18 3LG.

MacLEAN - Irene Louise (née Mayer) peacefully on July 22nd 1996, in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, aged 89 years. Beloved mother of Felice, Janet and Evelyn and a much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation at Ipswich Crematorium West Chapel on Monday July 29th at 11 o'clock.

DEATHS

MANSI - John Gregory on 20th July 1996 after a long illness bravely borne. Most adored and loving husband of Anne, proud and treasured daddy of Christina, Claire and Stephanie, much loved son of Dr. Joseph and brother of Dr. Anthony Mansi. Service at Beckenham Crematorium Monday 29th July at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations to either Bud Flanagan Ward, Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton or to Bromley Area Leukaemia Support Group. All donations c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington.

McARTHUR - Gerald Elwyn M.B.E., Q.P.M. Died peacefully at home in Hemel Hempstead, aged 80, after a short illness. Formerly Assistant Chief Constable and first Co-ordinator of No.5 Regional Crime Squad. Service at St Johns', Boxmoor, on Tuesday 30th July, 1996, at 11.30 am. followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Iain Rennie Hospice at Home c/o G. Hall & Sons, 3 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead.

McMILLAN - James of Upper Basildon, retired Consultant Eye Surgeon and musician, died peacefully on 22nd July after a short illness. A service to celebrate his life will be held at Reading Crematorium, All Hallows Road, on Monday 29th July at 10.30 am. No dark colours to be worn. No flowers, but donations please to the Intensive Care Unit, Royal Berkshire Hospital.

MISTRY - Hilla (née Devitre) on 20th July, much loved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and aunt. Service at St Marylebone Crematorium at 3.30 pm Friday 26th July.

MITCHELL - Lt. Col. Colin Campbell on July 20th at Sister Agnes, London. Beloved husband of Sue and dearly loved father of Lorne, Angus and Colina. Family funeral. Memorial Service to be announced.

DEATHS

MORRIS - On July 20th, suddenly, John beloved husband of Barbara, loved and loving father of Adrian and Sandy, loved and loving grandpa of Helen, Fiona, Melissa and James. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Hitcham, Burnham, Bucks, on Monday 29th July at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to 'The British Heart Foundation', 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH. A Memorial Service to be held at a later date.

PIGGOTT - F.J.C. Major-General C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on Sunday 21st July peacefully at Weston Hospital aged 85 years. Private cremation at Bristol. Memorial Service at a later date. No flowers but donations at that time to The Queens Royal Surrey Regiment Association. F/D Britton and Bennett (01934) 832116.

RODGERS - John, M.A.Oxon., (Wadham). On 14th July in hospital at Chelmsford aged 72. He will be sadly missed.

SENHOUSE - On 21st July 1996, Humphrey Patricius of Eden Hey, Stanwix, Carlisle. Funeral Service at Lorton Church, nr. Cockermouth, on Monday 29th July at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation c/o Mr N. Chicken, 39 Kirkgate, Cockermouth, Cumbria.

SOWERBY - Gerald Vivian peacefully on 21st July 1996. Of Startforth, late of Lincolnshire. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral private.

TYE - James, Director-General, British Safety Council, died peacefully in hospital 21st July 1996. Husband of Rosalie, father of Stephen and Jo and grandfather of Sam. Sadly missed. Funeral private but memorial service later.

DEATHS

VEREKER - On 22nd July Charles Henry after a brief illness. Beloved husband of Patricia, father of Julian, Katherine and Deirdre, grandfather of Annabel, Daniel and Matthew. Funeral arrangements W.G. Miller (0171) 226-3896.

WHITFIELD - Cynthia, on 22nd July 1996, peacefully in Bromley Hospital. Beloved wife of Harry and much loved mother of Marion, Peter and Ann and grandmother of Stephen and Sarah. She bore her illness with dignity and will be greatly missed. Details of the cremation from the family. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HODGES - Miss Jean Marie. At St Johns Church, Felixstowe on Sunday 28th July at 3 pm following her death on the 7th July 1996.

MACLEAN - A Memorial Service will be held for Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Dunconnel at St George's, Hanover Square, London, W1 at 12 noon on 25th September.

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OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL COLIN MITCHELL

Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Mitchell, soldier and politician, died on July 20 aged 70. He was born on November 17, 1925.

"MAD MITCH", as he came to be known, was one of the last popular heroes produced by the British Empire. He was also one of the first heroes created by television, which brought his deft and dashing recapture of the Crater district of Aden from insurgents in the summer of 1967 into the living rooms of a depressed and chastened nation. His subsequent career, which included four years, 1970-74, as Conservative Member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire, was largely anticlimax — something that he felt deeply.

Of Scottish ancestry but brought up in the modest London suburb of Norbury and educated at the Whitgift School, Croydon, Colin Campbell Mitchell had a romantic feeling for Scottish tradition. In 1943 he joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, into which his father had been commissioned in the field during the First World War, soon proving himself a natural soldier. He fought bravely in the final battles of the Italian campaign, a demanding experience which, however, convinced him to make soldiering his career.

He fought again in the Korean War but thereafter his many spells of active service were all in the minor campaigns which attended the decline of the British Empire. Earlier service in Palestine had given him expertise in counter-insurgency operations and this was put to effective use in Cyprus during the EOKA emergency, Borneo during the "confrontation" by Indonesia and finally in Aden.

Throughout all this time Mitchell was making a reputation as a bold and efficient officer, passing through the Staff College and serving as GSO1 on the staff of Lord Mountbatten when he was Chief of the Defence Staff. His success in a wide range of appointments, including time with the Territorial Army and the King's African Rifles, had won him brevet rank as a lieutenant-colonel. When ordered to Aden in 1967 with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, of which he had taken command, he seemed set for the highest ranks of the Army.

His battalion arrived in Aden, already trained specifically for the occupation of the Crater district, within the crater of the extinct volcano behind the port, shortly before the mutiny of the armed police part of the South Arabian Army on June 20. Twenty-two British soldiers were killed, including several Argylls, and British troops were thought to be held alive in Crater, which was firmly in the hands of the mutineers. Mitchell, though not yet in command of that district, urged an immediate rescue attempt but this was refused by the GOC Middle East Land Forces, Major-General Philip Tower, who feared that it would ignite further disturbances. In the event, only one British soldier escaped alive from Crater. The conflict over this issue led to continued dispute between Mitchell and Tower.

Then in the early hours of July 4, Mitchell led the Argylls into Crater and, as he wrote in his memoirs, *Having Been a Soldier*, the mutineers "heard a new sound, one that was to remind them that, until the British finally left South Arabia, here in Crater the rule of law would be enforced. They heard the Pipes and Drums." Not only that day but in subsequent weeks, Mitchell frequently appeared on televison: a small, handsome man with a direct, pugnacious manner, speaking the robust, unminced words that the British had not heard from their army officers since the acceleration of the Imperial decline had begun nearly two decades before. Newspapers took him up as a popular hero, proudly bestowing upon him the sobriquet of "Mad Mitch".

Unhappily, Mitchell's disagreements with General Tower continued and worsened when the latter ordered him to relax his firm military grip of reconquered Crater with the result that terrorism there immediately increased. However, the Argylls held the district without a serious challenge from the insurgents until the evacuation of Aden in November of that year, when they withdrew as swiftly and efficiently as they had arrived. The acrimony lingered, however, and, unlike the commanders of other infantry battalions, Mitchell was not recommended for a Distinguished Service Order and was passed over for promotion.

Seeing this as an insult to his regiment, as much as a personal slight, Mitchell resigned his commission, although privately assured that his career would eventually prosper, and led the successful "Save the Argylls" campaign to prevent their disbandment under forthcoming cuts in the Army. He wrote his memoirs and then joined the staff of Beaverbrook Newspapers as a management trainee.

His sights, however, were aimed higher and, in the 1970 general election, he gained West Aberdeenshire for the Conservatives, easily seeing off the Liberal standard-bearer, Laura Grimond, the wife of the former Liberal leader. In the Commons Mitchell followed in the wake of a previous national hero turned Tory MP — Commander J. S. Kerans of *HMS Amethyst* fame — in making singularly little mark in the chamber. But he was busy and effective in committee and always tireless in his constituency. For a year he served as PPS to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

A useful, if unobtrusive, parliamentary career seemed to be beckoning, especially as Mitchell combined his work at Westminster with a gregarious social life in London — he was a member of the Garrick, Carlton and Caledonian clubs and in any gathering was always a popular and an amusing raconteur. But the offer of a job managing an enormous sporting estate in the Scottish Highlands proved too strong a lure for the romantic whose vision of Scotland had been fashioned in a London suburb, and he decided not to seek re-election in February 1974. He later admitted that this had been a disastrous mistake: the job in the Highlands came to nothing and alternative offers of work did not match Mitchell's own view of his abilities and qualifications. He was kept busy spasmodically by a variety of consultancies, some in the military field, which took him abroad, including incursions into Afghanistan where he accompanied the guerrillas, himself dressed as a Mujahidin. Latterly, he lived in Norfolk, which he found a far cry from the Highlands.

At times his disappointment showed and it amounted to bitterness. He turned angrily against the media, which he had used so brilliantly to promote the cause of saving his regiment, and against old friends who had tried to help him in difficult times. Once a popular member of the Garrick Club, he avoided it for years, finally stopping his subscription.

However, he did seem to find satisfaction in directing Halo, the worldwide mine-clearing organisation staffed mostly by ex-soldiers, whose company he found congenial. He was often reported back in Afghanistan, in Cambodia, Central America, equatorial Africa — indeed anywhere mines had been laid in large numbers.

In London, between his sorties abroad, he would take exercise by walking for hours on end and his brisk little figure, pork pie hat perched on his thick grey hair, would be reported from the most unlikely parts of the capital. But this was not the military, or political career of which he had dreamt and he never seemed to come to terms with his disappointment. Yet his brief but vivid place in the military history of the last years of the British Empire is secure.

He is survived by his wife Sue and by two sons and a daughter.

ROBERT COLLINS

Robert Collins, pop musician, died in a car accident on July 22 aged 33. He was born on February 23, 1963.

ROBERT COLLINS was the keyboard player for the Charlatans, one of the more genuinely innovative of the new "indie" pop bands which grew up in the fertile musical ground of Manchester during the late 1980s. The movement took its name from the small, independent record labels by which the bands were produced. The Charlatans' rise to fame was the swiftest of any of the local bands and, for a while at least, until new groups like Oasis eclipsed them, they were set to be the next big British band!

Their popularity was based on providing a modern style of dance music, which had its roots in 1960s pop. Their fashionably gaunt lead singer, Tim Burgess, was considered as handsome as a young Mick Jagger, but it was Collins (equally handsome in a dark, saturnine mould) who provided the musical muscle to back him up, with his Hammond organ, an instrument which had been unfairly neglected since the 1960s. When Collins was relegated to the background — as he was for occasional singles like *Just When You're Thinkin' Things Over* — the group's playing could become directionless. But when he was allocated a starring role, their playing became focused and exciting. Inspired by those underground mod and psychedelic revival bands of the 1970s, he produced an instantly recognisable sound from his instrument, sometimes rich and swelling, sometimes urgent and stabbing.

Collins was born in Sedgeley in the West Midlands, and went to school locally. He played the piano as a child, and performed in several school and local bands before forming the Charlatans with his old musical partner Martin Blunt, the band's bass player. Steve Harrison, the band's manager, had followed Collins's career, and he found them a vocalist in Tim Burgess, who was then singing with the Electric Crayons. The Charlatans had as little to do with one of those market-led, expensively styled boys bands as could be imagined. They bought their own clothes, and Harrison's previous experience had extended to running a record shop.

But their debut 12-inch single, *Indian Rope*, released in 1990 was a success, and established the group as a fine live act. They had released the record on their own label, Dead Dead Good. Now they secured a contract with Beggars Banquet Records, and released *The Only One I Know*, a single vaguely reminiscent of Book T and the MGs (one of Collins's biggest influences). It was a brilliant summer anthem, and pushed the Charlatans into the top of the charts. Their follow-up single, *Then*, and a debut album later that year kept them on a high note. But the following year was quieter for them, and 1992 constituted a particularly low point for Collins, who was sentenced for eight months after, most bizarrely, taking part in an attempted armed robbery. Collins was driving the getaway car from the bungled off-licence raid. The sentencing followed the release of their excellent third album, *Up To Our Hips*, and the Charlatans were quite willing to disband if Collins had been jailed for a much longer term. In the event he served only four months, and the band bounced back after his release.

With the arrival of Britpop bands like Oasis, and a resurgence of interest abroad in British music, the Charlatans had enjoyed renewed success during the past year. Oasis invited them to appear as special guests on their new tour. Last year's album, eponymously entitled *The Charlatans*, shot straight to number one and remained in the charts for many weeks. The album seemed to have hit the mark as confidently as anything they had done before.

Collins's wildchild behaviour had not, however, mellowed with age, nor was it much improved by a youthful and unsuccessful marriage. He died after his red BMW left the road in Monmouth.

PROFESSOR JOHN FOZARD

John Fozard, OBE, FRS, aeronautical engineer and President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, 1986-87, died in Alexandria, Virginia, on July 17 from liver failure aged 68. He was born on January 16, 1928.

JOHN FOZARD was one of the small and select band of trained aeronautical engineers who joined the design teams of the British aircraft industry just after the Second World War. They thus started off by sitting at the feet of the earlier pioneers. The latter had gained their experience the hard way through trial and error, laced with boundless enthusiasm. Now a fresh breed was beginning to arrive.

With his first-class degree in engineering from London University in 1948 and an aeronautical diploma from the Cranfield College of Aeronautics in 1950, John Fozard was very much the prototype of this new sort of aeronautical engineer. His arrival at Hawker Aircraft at Kingston in 1950 marked the beginning of a cordial — though not always easy — 16-year, day-to-day relationship with Sir Sydney Camm.

Camm was the doggedly inspired designer of an outstanding series of Hart and Fury biplane fighters, leading on to the Hurricane, the Typhoon and Tempest monoplanes, and then to the world's first vertical take-off-and-landing fighter-bomber, the Hawker Harrier.

John William Fozard was, therefore, lucky to begin his professional career as one of Sydney Camm's "young gentlemen" in the Hawker project office, fresh from the department of aircraft design at Cranfield under Professor Sir Robert Lickley, himself formerly a Hawker Aircraft man.

Fozard came in when the early jet fighters were being advanced from prototypes into production — notably the Hawker P1040, which became the Sea Hawk for the Royal Navy, followed by the P1067, the forerunner of the excellent Hunter for the Royal Air Force. By 1961 Fozard was head of the Hawker project office, working with Ralph Hooper who, from 1957, had been responsible, under Camm, for design work on the P1127 V/STOL prototype, the precursor of the Harrier "jump jet".

Hooper went on to initiate design work on a further development, the supersonic V/STOL P1154 which, in 1962, won the Nato NEMA-3 International Design Competition, only to be cancelled, along with the TSR-2, by the first Wilson Government in February 1965.

That action dealt a serious blow to Fozard who had become chief designer, P1154, in October 1963. Instead, he now succeeded Ralph Hooper as chief designer, Harrier, from 1965 to 1978 when, with the formation of British Aerospace, he became marketing director of its Kingston-Brough division, a post which he held until 1984. He was appointed OBE in 1981.

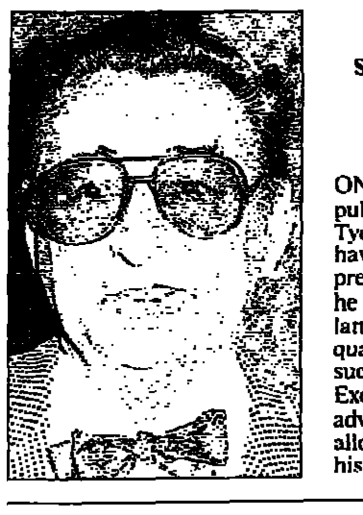
From 1984 to 1987 Fozard served as British Aerospace's director of special projects, military aircraft division, and then was seconded to the United States to become the Lindbergh Professor of Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. In February 1989 he retired from British Aerospace after 45 years of service with it and its predecessor companies.

Fozard had joined the Royal Aeronautical Society as a student in 1949. He was elected a fellow in 1963 and to the council in 1977, of which he became president in 1986-87. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1987.

Throughout his career, active in both the practical and academic aspects of aviation, Fozard was a fluent and outstanding lecturer and a good musician. In 1991, he compiled and edited a book of tributes to Sir Sydney Camm — *Sydney Camm and the Hurricane*.

John Fozard married Mary Ward in 1951 by whom he had two sons. The marriage was dissolved in 1985 and that same year he married, secondly, Gloria Roberts of Alexandria, Virginia. She and his two sons survive him.

JAMES TYE



James Tye, director-general of the British Safety Council since 1968, died on July 21 aged 74. He was born on December 21, 1921.

ONE of the inveterate self-publicists of his age, James Tye could at least claim to have operated as a one-man pressure group. The field that he tried to make his own was latterly covered perfectly adequately by government bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive; but, as an old advertising man, Tye never allowed that to deter him in his efforts constantly to keep his own organisation's name before the public.

Not all his efforts in this respect were equally happy. Once at a City reception, on being asked by the Queen what he did, he somewhat pertly replied: "Among other things I try to persuade you to wear a safety hat when you go out hunting, Your Majesty." Like her forebear, Queen Victoria, the reigning monarch is said to have been unamused, rapidly passing on and leaving floating in the air behind her the dismissive comment: "Oh, I think I am a little too old for that." But it was wholly typical of Tye that even this story should have made its way into the gossip columns. He was a classic proof of the old adage: "Keep on advertising, and advertising will keep you."

In truth, despite its claimed international organisation and its much-vaunted annual awards, the actual structure of the British Safety Council never bore much investigation. It was basically a vehicle for one man's self-promotion — something that most newspapers recognised but found themselves unable to do much about as Tye unerringly picked his targets, whether in a widely quoted rebuke to the Princess Royal for taking her son Peter home from hospital on the front seat of a car without the benefit of a seat-belt or in his reprimand more recently to the Prince of Wales for allowing his younger son Prince Harry to hold the steering wheel of his Land Rover while driving on the private Sandringham estate.

James Tye, a past master at producing brochures on his own career and achievements, was educated at Upper Hornsey LCC School. He joined the RAF in 1939 and served with it in the ranks throughout the war.

After four years in advertising, he joined Sky Press in 1950, founding while he was there a company called Safety Publications. In 1962 he was appointed executive director of the British Safety Council, taking the somewhat grander title of director-general (with all its echoes of the BBC or the CBI) six years later. It was a post he continued to hold well beyond most people's retirement age, notching up nearly 35 years in the service of what he liked to characterise as "the most successful and largest occupational safety organisation in the world". The only irony was that the whole thing was run from a small house, which was also his home, in Chiswick.

James Tye, who married in 1950, leaves a widow, Rosalie, a son and a daughter.

ON THIS DAY

July 24, 1914

The author of these charming sentiments was not to know that during the next four years thousands of women were to become mothers "of heroic sons."

THE TRIUMPH OF AGE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It is the day of the old lady. "Westward the tide of Empire takes its way," and the evening of her days finds the modern old lady at her most charming.

Her encroachments have been steady. There was a time when Woman was married at 16; and, if one may believe George Meredith, she had a wit and a wisdom which would only be credible now in her grandmother. She married at 16; she produced enormous families without apparently any great inconvenience to herself; she was an adept in all matters of the household; she doctored her family and dependents with simples made of herbs; she had her still-room where she distilled sweet waters; she brewed home-made beer and wines of cowslip and elder; she embroidered and sewed and spun. Altogether her memory is as fragrant as the sweet pomanders she made. She was simply pious and she had the simple virtues; she never asked to stir very far from her own fireside; she left the gaieties of life to her men-folk. She put on a bonnet when she was married and a cap at 40; and her grandchildren were in her arms at an age when her granddaughters have just begun to attract the homage of men.

Think of a 16-year-old of your acquaintance and imagine her taking on her shoulders love and life, the happiness of many, the cares of a mother and wife and of a household, and imagine her carrying the burden and the love and the grief and fulfilling her woman's lot successfully! It was a man-made axiom that a woman was as old as she looked and a man as old as he felt; and it was a partisan statement. The women who are as old as they feel are all about us, and the younger they feel the younger they look. I know a woman of 40 who is the most charming of girls, with something airy, elusive, delicate as thistledown about her fluttering beauty.

Statistics prove that the age of marriage is postponed later and later. The young thing has not much chance nowadays against her maiden aunt, or it may be her mother. The ideal of comradeship in marriage has grown. I have seen in my time the women left out of the men's diversions. I remember the ballroom deserted for the card-room, and the pretty girls sitting round the walls partnerless the night long. I have seen it come that the women, too, began to play cards, to go to race meetings, to smoke, so that they could go with the men and be good comrades, and not the dear apart things that were the girls of yore. Golf was a great opportunity for the women. Good comradeship is a better provision for life's dusty way than sentiment; and, indeed, there is no reason why romantic love should not lie at the head of good fellowship.

One remembers old diaries and journals. It was an exceptionally brilliant woman who recorded that she and the ladies of the family sat all day working at a carpet they were making and read in between Blair's "Grave," a cheerful spiritual manual. The child-wife, I fancy, was left at home while her mate disported himself. She *had* to be left at home — there were so many babies and so much to do. She was incredibly efficient very often, and she had time sometimes to become a great woman as well as to be the mother of heroic sons...

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Brighton is seeing a huge revival as a commercial, cultural and leisure centre. **Christopher Warman** reports

Facelift for the 'city by the sea'

When a businessman arrives in town and hails a cab, he will expect to be regaled with a firm opinion on the state of the country and the shortcomings of the Government.

Not in Brighton. Some 300 taxi drivers — half the town's complement — have undergone a course organised by Brighton and Hove Economic Development Company (BHEDCo) to help them to be ambassadors for the town, knowledgeable about property developments in the area and the opportunities for investment.

"The cab driver is often the first person a visitor sees when arriving, and it is important that the first impressions are positive about Brighton and Hove and what we have to offer," says Michael Petrie, chief executive of BHEDCo.

The "ambassadors" scheme is one of a number of initiatives by the organisation, a private/public sector partnership of business and local authorities. It was set up in August 1993 to reverse the somewhat negative attitudes that the business community in particular were aware of in considering Brighton and Hove, and to help its revival as a commercial and cultural centre — as well as a leading leisure resort.

One of BHEDCo's first tasks was to carry out research about business perceptions of the area. Many companies were not aware that there was an international airport nearby (Gatwick is only 20 minutes away); did not know that there were two universities there; were unaware of the availability of office space; and did not realise the range of skills of the local workforce, not least in languages from the many language schools.

There is evidence that BHEDCo's efforts to address this challenge are working, helping to attract £500 million of new investment by developers and businesses. "We are also forging links with Invest in Britain and with corporate relocation organisations," Mr Petrie says. "Instead of whingeing about losing out to northern development corporations, for example, we said we must get together and get on with it."

The range of initiatives is wide, including small schemes like the "Brighton looking good" campaign, tackling graffiti among other things. The Grade I listed railway station is undergoing a £20 million refurbishment, and the road from the station to the sea is to be transformed into Ocean Boulevard in the next few months, with the help of businesses on the route including TSB Trustcard, Commercial Union and the Rank Organisation.

A £2 million seafront development, assisted by a Single Regeneration Budget grant, is upgrading the area between the two piers; the Royal Pavilion restoration has been completed, and a further £1 million has been spent restoring the surrounding gardens. The nearby Dome Concert Hall, formerly the Royal Pavilion riding stables, has been awarded Lottery funding towards a £28 million scheme. The Museum and Art Gallery will be expanded and a new central library built for £6 million.

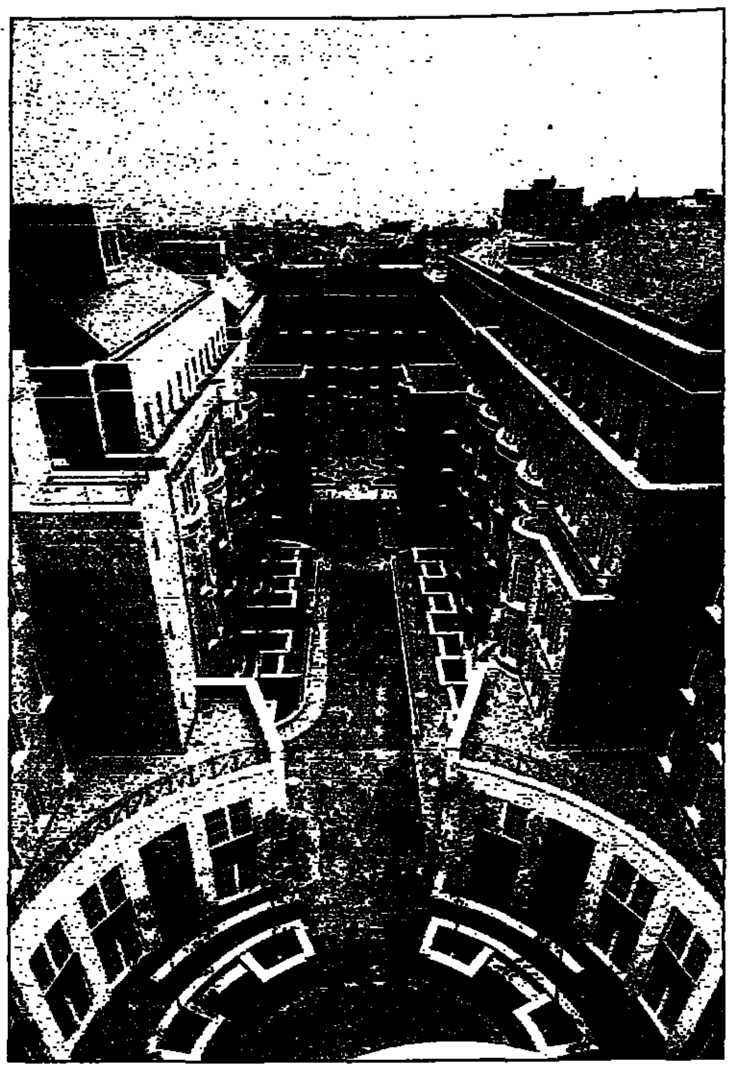
Standard Life, owner of Churchill Square, the main shopping centre in the town, has started work on a £90 million rebuilding and expansion scheme; the £1.5 million Sussex Innovation Centre has opened on the University of Sussex campus to cater for the needs of high-tech research and development; and a £4 million Hove Technology Park is being planned.

The largest office development in Sussex, the 250,000 sq ft Trafalgar Place adjoining the station, is now 70 per cent occupied, with tenants including Eagle Star, Mott MacDonald, TSB and the recently established Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority. American Express, the biggest employer in the town, has concentrated a number of its European activities into its Brighton headquarters. Mr Petrie explains: "Many organisations are realising the benefits of a location outside London, where costs can be minimised but crucial links with the capital can be maintained."

Robert Stiles, of the property agent Stiles Harold Williams, which is closely involved with BHEDCo, is positive about the town's future, as road improvements, retail and hotel expansion, the availability of office space and environmental improvements come to fruition.

He says: "All these factors indicate that an increasing number of companies will settle on Brighton as their preferred location, and join businesses like BUPA International, American Express, General Accident and Systems International. The town is now living up to its billing as 'London-by-Sea': it offers the business, retail and leisure advantages of the capital together with a healthy and high quality environment to live in."

Brighton is now looking to achieve city status, after merging with its neighbouring local authority, Hove, to form a unitary authority on April 1, 1997. "After that we can apply for city status, and must have a good chance. Then we will be able to say, 'Come to our city by the sea'," says Mr Petrie.



Trafalgar Place, Brighton: largest office development in Sussex

MARKET MOVES

Tesco behind office project

SPEN Hill Properties Ltd, owned by Tesco, has launched its speculative flagship City office scheme at Eighty Cheapside, London EC2. The 75,900 sq ft development will be completed in October this year.

Bruce Cheer of Spen Hill comments: "Eighty Cheapside is one of a new wave of City office buildings being built in the run up to the third millennium. The City will benefit from the provision of a total of more than 160,000 sq ft of office space, a restaurant, a Tesco Metro foodstore and nearly 30,000 sq ft of retail."

STANDARD Life has bought Swans Gardens and Centre At The Circus, with frontages to Piccadilly and Regent Street, London W1, for £39.5 million on an 88-year lease from OGM Dodabetta BV, a subsidiary of the leading Dutch pension fund PGGM. The Grade II listed building dates from 1925 and was once the home of the department store Swan & Edgar.

KINGSPARK Developments and local textile company A.C. Gill have formed a joint venture to develop a 100,000 sq ft headquarters office scheme in Nottingham's Lace Market. The investment value of the completed project is expected to be around £15 million, and the development, known as Archer Gate, will be available in buildings from 33,000 sq ft. Planning consent has been granted for the city centre scheme.

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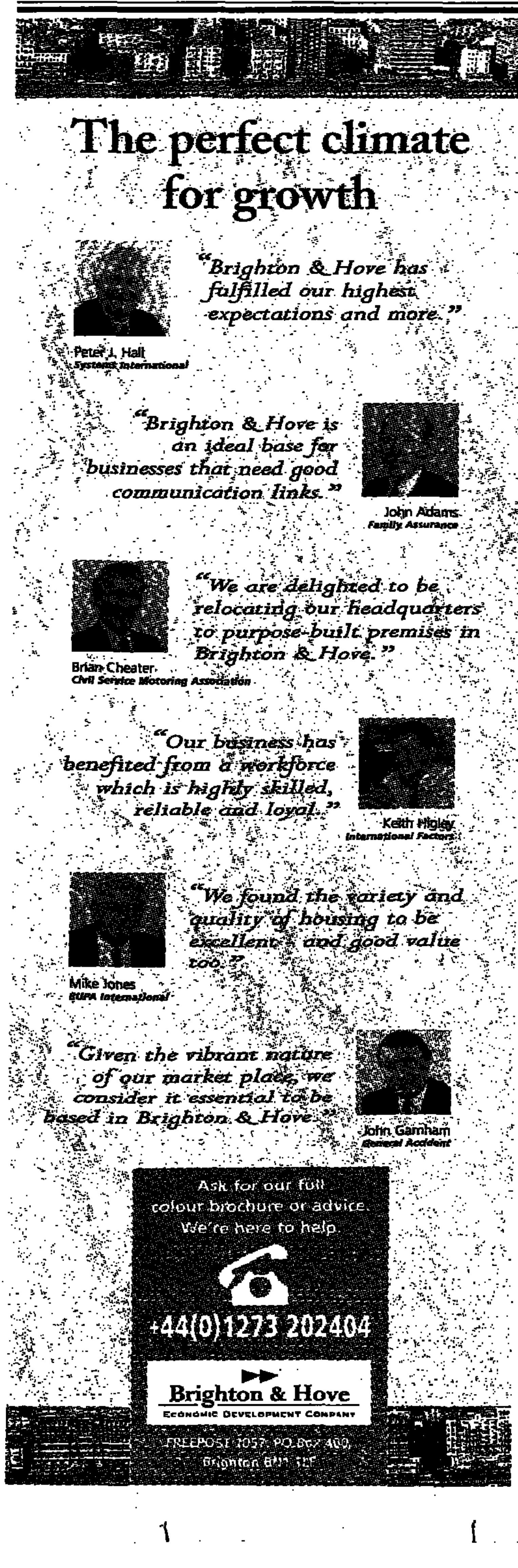

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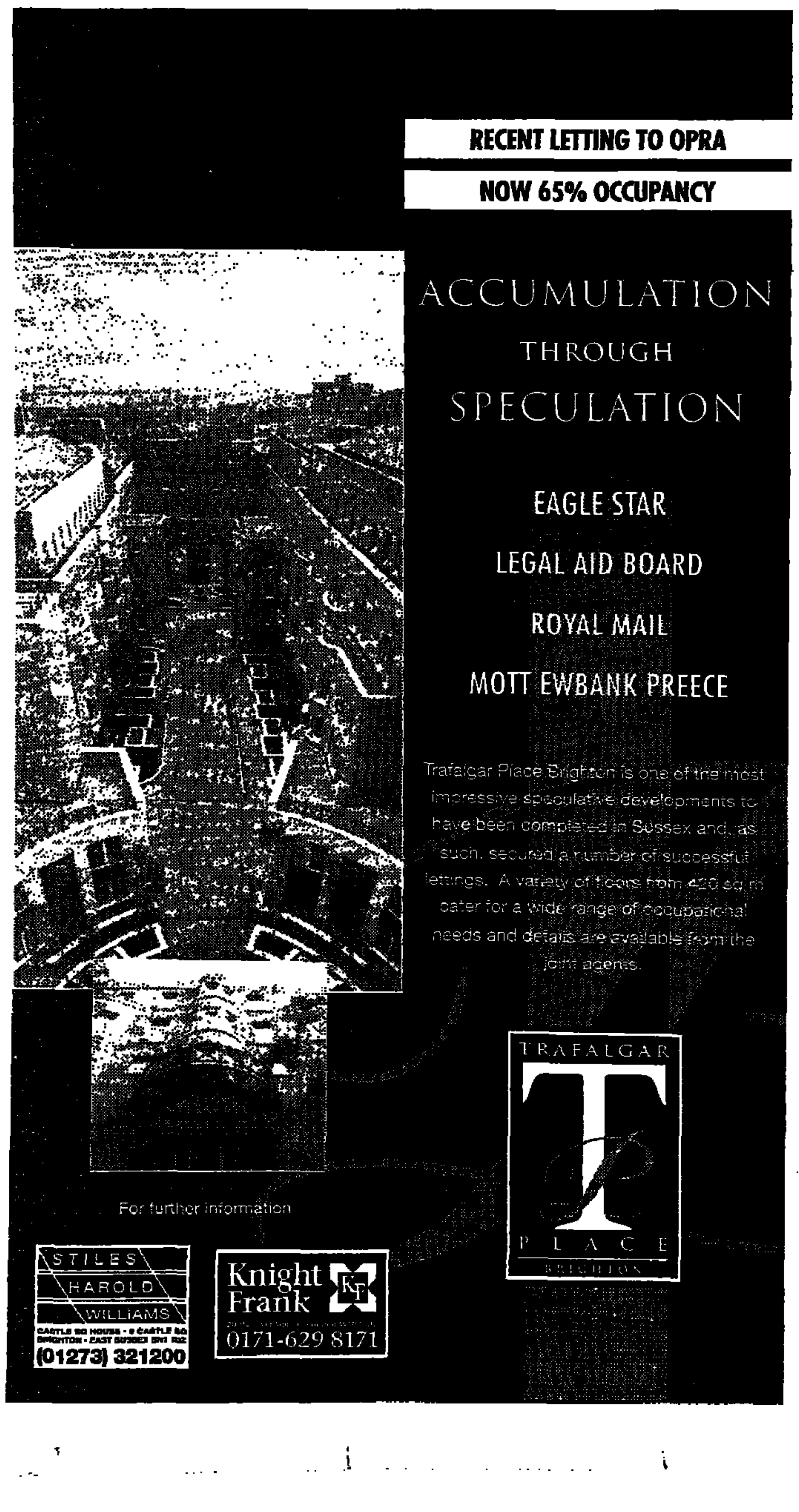

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Law Report July 24 1996 Court of Appeal

Life sentence on 'lifer' valid

Regina v Whittaker

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, *Lord Chief Justice*, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Connell

[Judgment July 18]

The absence of medical evidence about the mental condition of an offender already subject to a mandatory life sentence passed on him 17 years earlier did not preclude the imposition on him of a discretionary life sentence for a violent crime he committed on weekend home leave from custody.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when deciding that a seven-year sentence imposed at Birmingham Crown Court by Mr Justice Bennett on Steven Alan Whittaker, aged 37, after conviction of causing grievous bodily harm with intent, contrary to section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, was unduly lenient and substituting a discretionary life sentence and fixing the appropriate period to be served for retribution and deterrence at seven years.

The decision was made on an application by the Attorney-General under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for leave to refer the sentence as being unduly lenient.

Mr Orlando Pownall for the Attorney-General; Mr Shaun Smith for the offender.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that in 1978 the offender, then 19, was convicted of murder by kicking a man, going through his pockets and then jumping on his face with both feet.

The day after being released on weekend leave in November 1994, the offender went with a former inmate to a nightclub where the victim was present with friends. She left at about 1am and walked alone in the direction of her parents' home along an unlit pathway.

The offender, who had followed her, emerged from behind a gap in a hedge, grabbed her, knocked her to the ground, fracturing her cheek bone, sat astride her, put his hands round her neck, squeezed her throat hard and repeatedly threatened to kill her. Answering her screams her father called out that he was coming. The offender was later apprehended and charged. He was acquitted of attempted murder but convicted of the section 18 offence.

Three theoretical sentencing possibilities were before the judge: (i) a determinate sentence of a length appropriate for the offence of which the offender had been convicted; (ii) an extended sentence under section 2(2)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 "necessary to protect the public from serious harm from the offender"; (iii) an indeterminate life sentence.

It was common ground between counsel, their Lordships thought correctly, that an extended sentence was to be excluded. The offender was already subject to a life sentence and the imposition of an extended sentence could not be necessary for the protection of the public.

In the course of counsel's mitigation the judge, relying on *R v Hodgson* ((1967) 52 Cr App R 113), ruled out the possibility of imposing a discretionary life sentence, since the there was no medical evidence of personality disorder or instability or anything like that.

Mr Pownall submitted that that was an inadvertent misreading of *Hodgson* in which Mr Justice MacKenna, giving the judgment of the court, had stated that a life sentence was justified where (a) the offence or offences were in themselves great enough to require a life sentence, (b) it appeared from the nature of the offence or from the defendant's history that he was a person of unstable character likely to commit such offences in the future, and (c) if the offences were committed the consequences to others might be specially injurious as in the case of sexual offences or crimes of violence. Counsel submitted that that formulation of principle did not require medical evidence as a matter of uniform practice, but merely circumstances from which the necessary inference of continuing danger to the public could be drawn.

In their Lordships' judgment, the judge was taking an unnecessarily narrow view of the circumstances in which a discretionary life sentence could be imposed.

The conditions could really be put under two heads: (i) the offender should have been convicted of a very serious offence, if not no question of imposing life existed; and (ii) there had to be good grounds for believing that the offender might remain a serious danger to the public for a period which could not be reliably estimated at the date of sentence.

By "serious danger" their Lordships had in mind particularly serious offences of violence and serious offences of a sexual nature. Crimes which might found such a belief would very often relate to the mental condition of the defendant: see *R v Wilkinson* ((1983) 5 Cr App R (S) 105).

It was, therefore, plain that evidence of an offender's mental state was highly relevant, but the crucial question was whether, on the facts, the offender was likely to represent a serious danger to the public for an indeterminate time.

In reviewing the offender's sentence their Lordships considered that, in view of the extreme seriousness of the offence, it merited life imprisonment and that the correct inference to draw was that there were grounds for believing that he might remain a serious danger to the public for a period which could not be reliably established at the date of the sentence. The judge had been wrong to read *Hodgson* as precluding the possibility of imposing a life sentence.

Evidence of an offender's mental state was highly relevant, but the crucial question was whether, on the facts, he was likely to represent a serious danger to the public for an indeterminate time. The reality of the situation was that, given the offender's previous conviction for murder, release into the community was bound to be delayed for an indeterminate period and it was better that that should be recognised and stated.

The sentence imposed was unduly lenient. It would be quashed and a discretionary life sentence imposed, with seven years fixed as the appropriate period to be served for retribution and deterrence.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters; Jackson Quinn, Nottingham.

Whether court's decision is final

Blustarling Ltd v Westminster City Council

Before Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment July 1]

It was for the court to decide whether it had as a matter of fact reached a final decision on a matter before it.

Mr Justice McCullough so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an appeal by case stated from the dismissal by Mr J. Connor, metropolitan stipendiary magistrate sitting at Bow Street, on August 25, 1995 of the appeal of Blustarling Ltd.

The magistrate had reserved judgment on August 8 and each party asked for an order for costs in the event of the decision going in its favour. On August 25 the magistrate dismissed the appeals making the order that costs should follow the event but no amount of costs had been specified. On August 8 the council faxed a copy of its costs to the court but that had not been drawn to the attention of the magistrate. The case was later relisted on October 6.

Mr Charles Salter for the company; Mr Timothy Spencer for the council.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that the magistrate was satisfied that the order of August 25 had been clear but in any event, the court was entitled subsequently to clarify it.

The company contended, and his Lordship accepted, that in relation to civil proceedings in magistrates' courts the order of the court was made when it was pronounced not when it was drawn up.

His Lordship did not accept the submission that the order on an appeal and any order as to costs had to be made at the same time so that the magistrate was functus officio after August 25.

Any valid order for costs was in two stages since quantification followed the making of the primary decision that an order for costs would be made. In the period between the two decisions the order for payment of costs was not bad but merely incomplete and for the time being ineffective.

It was unreal to ask whether a court had made a final adjudication on a matter it had not been asked to decide; the fact that it could have been asked was beside the point.

The question whether the magistrate had before October 6 reached a final adjudication on what was before him was a matter of fact for the magistrate to decide on that date in the light of what had happened hitherto.

When such questions arose it was always for the court to decide as a matter of fact in all the circumstances whether or not it had reached a final adjudication.

Much might depend on the nature of the omission, its relationship to what the court had already decided, the explanation for the omission, the length of time before it was drawn to the attention of the court and whether the decision had already been entered into the court register. Those factors were not necessarily determinative and others might be relevant.

The magistrate's conclusion that prior to October 6 he had not made a final determination on a matter that was before him was one he could reasonably reach and was therefore unassailable.

His decision that the costs had already been specified in the amount put in by the council on August 8 however would be quashed on the basis, inter alia that the company had not had an opportunity to make submissions on it. Given the impracticability of remitting the case the appeal succeeded and the order for the payment of costs would be quashed.

Solicitors: Wilson Barca; Mr Colin T. Wilson, Westminster.

Compulsory purchase threat not relevant

E. Johnson & Co (Barbados) Ltd v NSR Ltd

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Nolan, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann

[Judgment July 9]

The publication of a statutory notice warning that land which was under contract of sale was likely to be required for Crown purposes did not amount to a frustrating event since it was to be presumed, in the absence of specific provision to the contrary, that the purchaser had agreed as from the conclusion of the contract for sale to accept the normal risks incidental to land ownership, which included the risk of interference with land-owning rights by the Crown.

The Privy Council so held in allowing an appeal by E. Johnson & Co (Barbados) Ltd, from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Barbados (Mr Justice Straughn Husbands, Acting Chief Justice, Sir Frederick Smith, Justice of Appeal, and Mr Justice Moe, Justice of Appeal) dated September 27, 1993 dismissing their appeal from a judgment of Mr Justice Davis (Acting) dated September 30, 1992.

Mr Michael Briggs, QC, Ms Elizabeth Jones and Mr Barry Gale (of the Barbados Bar) for Johnsons; Mr Richard McCombe, QC, Mr David Thompson (of the Barbados Bar) and Mr John Ford (of the Barbados Bar) for NSR.

LORD JAUNCEY, giving the judgment of the Board, said that the agreement was made in July, 1989, with a completion date of September 30, 1989. On September 7, 1989 a notice under section 3 of the *Land Acquisition Act (c 228)* was published warning that the land was likely to be required for Crown purposes. NSR purported to rescind the agreement.

On the conclusion of a contract for sale of land the risk passed to the purchaser. It was to be presumed, in the absence of specific provision to the contrary, that the purchaser had agreed to accept the normal risks incidental to land ownership. The risk of interference with land-owning rights by the Crown or statutory authorities was always present.

A threat of compulsory purchase, and publication of a section 3 notice amounted to no more than that, did not radically alter the nature of the contract of sale. What it did was simply to increase the likelihood of an existing albeit remote risk becoming an eventuality. It followed that a section 3 notice did not amount to a frustrating event.

Mr McCombe had argued that the section 3 notice prevented Johnsons giving vacant possession and that *Cook v Taylor* ([1942] Ch 349) had drawn the distinction between supervening events of which the purchaser had expressly or impliedly accepted the risk and events which disabled a vendor from performing specific obligations which he had undertaken.

The crucial question was whether the possession which Johnsons had been in a position to give on the date for completion was something other than vacant possession within the meaning of the contract. If the acquiring authority had the right to immediate possession at completion date, then the vendor could not then give vacant possession, but a section 3 notice did not give the Crown any such right.

Johnsons had been in a position to give vacant possession on completion, from which it followed that NSR had been in breach when they purported to rescind the contract.

The land had now vested in the Crown by the publication of a notice under section 5 of the Act. The appropriate remedy was damages rather than specific performance.

Solicitors: Frere Cholmeley Bischoff; Titmuss Sainer Dechert.

Challenging grant of appeal leave

Brennan v Brighton Borough Council

Professional advisers should appreciate that unless an application to set aside the grant of leave to appeal fell within the principles established by *The Iran Nabuvat* ([1990] 1 WLR 1115) it was bound to fail and was misconceived.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Judge on July 8, when dismissing an application by the defendants, Brighton Borough Council, who had sought to set aside the leave to appeal granted to Mr Brennan by two lord justices following the refusing of leave on paper by a single lord justice.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that those with conduct of the present litigation had launched the application out of anxiety to protect ratepayers' funds. But respondents in that position had to appreciate that in the great majority of cases such applications did not save, but wasted money.

The costs of the application were similar to the costs of the appeal, as was the expenditure of court time. The court had to take the case out of order and if the application failed the arguments had to be redeployed on the appeal and counsel and solicitors had to be reinstructed. Unless the application fell within the principles established in *The Iran Nabuvat* no one benefited from it.

His Lordship hoped that the profession would now appreciate the situation and pause long before making such an application.

Duty to consult proprietor

Regina v Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Ex parte McCarthy and Another

The secretary of state had a duty to consult the proprietor in all cases where she was considering withdrawal of her approval of an independent school for children with special educational needs. The only exception to consultation was where withdrawal of approval was necessary or expedient in the interests of the health, safety or welfare of the children.

Mr Justice Hidden so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on July 15 when allowing an application for judicial review by Brian and Anne McCarthy of a decision of November 24, 1995 to withdraw approval from their school.

HIS LORDSHIP said that regulation 5(2)(a) of the Education (Special Educational Needs) (Approval of Independent Schools) Regulation (SI 1994 No 651) imposed a duty to consult in all cases save where the interests of health, safety or welfare of the children precluded it.

It was always a serious matter to take the step of withdrawing approval without consultation. Where there was a need to do so, regulation 5(2) provided the means. Where there was no need, regulation 5 required that there be consultation.

His Lordship accepted that regulation 5 did not provide a middle ground alternative. If his Lordship were wrong on that point, then, in his Lordship's judgment, there was a common law duty to consult.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

Take a child to the zoo—FREE

Buy one adult ticket and a child goes free

The Times, in association with The Federation of Zoos, gives you the opportunity take a child free when you spend a day at the zoo. There are 41 locations to choose from (a list was published on Saturday and Monday) where you can save up to £6. The offer is valid any day from today until August 31, with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday.

Visiting a zoo today is an exciting experience for a child. They have imaginative ways of introducing children to wild and dangerous animals. At the Lakeland Wildlife Oasis, Cumbria, for instance, they can crawl through a tunnel underneath the meerkats' sand pit to pop up, protected under a perspex dome, to meet the inquisitive creatures face to face. At Edinburgh the penguins stroll around the lawn amongst the visitors. And at Thrigby Hall, near Great Yarmouth, one of the favourite attractions is nearly rubbing noses with an alligator, from the safety of protective glass.

The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland is a charity which represents the interests of 60 zoological and wildlife collections.

HOW TO APPLY
Collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times*, attach them to the voucher (already published) and present it at the zoo's ticket office. You will be entitled to a *free child* entry when paying one full adult admission. The voucher is valid for one zoo visit.

THE TIMES
The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain & Ireland
TOKEN FOUR

Chartered Institute of Taxation Associateship exams, May, 1996

Awards

The Institute Medal for the best overall performance. Kim Harmer (Deloitte & Touche, London)

The Ian Walker Medal for the best overall performance in the paper on Tax Administration, Professional Responsibilities and Ethics. Helen Margaret Hall (Norton Rose, London)

Standard Route

The Butterworth Prize for the highest total marks. Kim Harmer (Deloitte & Touche, London)

The Spofforth Medal for the paper on Personal Tax and Trust Taxation. Lynn Fiona Anthony (Ernst & Young, London)

The John Wood Medal for the paper on Business Taxation. Ian Michael Fay (Moore Stephens, Enfield)

The Avery Jones Medal for the paper on Practical Implications, Interaction and Tax Planning. Michael John L'Estrange (Neville Russell, London)

VAT Route

The Gilbert Burr Medal for the paper on VAT Principles and Planning. Bruce Andrew van der Waag (Deloitte & Touche, London)

The Victor Durkacz Medal for the paper on VAT Case Studies. Stephen Charles Sutton (HM Customs & Excise, Oxford)

Distinctions

Kim Harmer (Deloitte & Touche, London)

†=Prizewinner *=Distinction

Adam Z P (Rugby); Ainley J H (London); Allen C N (Farnham); Alston I S (Bury St Edmunds); Anderson C (Manchester); †Anthony L F (London); Aspin A K (London); Ayres R H (Carshalton)

Bainbridge R M (London); Baines V R (London); Bald C A (Edinburgh); Barlow D J (Oxford); Bates T J (Nottingham); Beard N J (Solihull); Beavan M D (Chester); Birch C J (Reigate); Blakemore N J (Newport); Blundell T J (London); Boland D A (London); Bone M G (Nottingham); Bragg S L (Harpenden); Branson A D (Redhill); Brion E A (Sevenoaks); Brown C E (Salford); Browne W (Loughborough); Bunting C L (Ashby-de-la-Zouch); Burden J (London); Burke C P (Croydon); Butler S D (Basingstoke)

Campbell F J (Eyemouth); Carey H L (St Albans); Carson P J (Huddersfield); Cartmel A J (Knutsford); Cartwright N J (London); Casey M (Brentford); Casey M A (London); Chapman M C (Bury); Chappell Y M (Leighton Buzzard); Charlton J R (Macclesfield); Chell D J (Wolverhampton); Christie K E (Leeds); Clark I (Bath); Clayden P F (Harpenden); Cocker A W (Ipswich); Collins I A (Bury); Collins J D (London); Collins S E G (Hong Kong); Connolly S J (Cambridge); Cooper M A (Sheffield); Costello G D (Manchester); Couchman R (Huntingdon); Cowgill A A (Stroud); Croom J B (Farnham)

Davies K J (London); Davison J W (London); Dawbarn A J (Rayleigh); Denniss M (London); Dockerill C M (London); Doherty P G (Leeds); Dresner C L (Tunbridge Wells); Dufton C M (Egham)

Eades J M (London); Edwards A R (Wirral); Elliott G P (Kenley); Elliott K T (Durham); Ellis S A (Woking); Emanuel N E (Woking); Evans A M A (Bristol)

Fayt I M (Enfield); Filley J M (Pinner); Fillingham H (London); Freeman J M (Warley); Fryett L J (Tonbridge)

Gibbs D C (Nuneaton); Gibson G E (Maidstone); Gleed A P (Camberley); Gloyn T S (Harrow); Gofton M (Gravesend); Gormley D J (London); Graham A J (Sunderland); Graham D J (Potters Bar); Gregori M (Rochester); Griffiths G W (London); Griffiths P J R (Worcester)

Halit H M (London); Hall T J (Chard); Halliday E J (Burgess Hill); Hammond H J (Bristol); Hann S J A (Brentwood); Hanna L (London); Hanna M E M (Reading); Harden P J (Cambridge); Harding L J (Bexleyheath); †*Harmer K (London); Harpin C A (Portsmouth); Harpin P M (Longfield); Harries J A (London); Harrison S E (Wigan); Harvey D S (Reading); Henderson D P (Tunbridge Wells); Hewett P J (London); Hicking K (Bristol); Hillam C F (Bingley); Hines-Randle J A (Redruth); Hoare N (Billericay); Holden A J (Goole); Holden M (Worthing); Holden S J (Blackburn); Holmes C S (London); Holston-Moore F C (Broxbourne); Houghton W (Bolton); Howse R (London); Hunter Z A A (Edinburgh)

Ingram A M (London); Ingram J P (Amersham); Irving M (Maidenhead); Isaac A M (Twickenham)

Jackson P (London); Jempson R A (Portsmouth); Johnson E D (London); Jones P E (Chesham); Jones R F G (Abergavenny)

Kearns S L (Epsom); Kent R F J (London); King R (London); Kirton S E (Hemel Hempstead); Knowles R A (Rossendale); Kurtz C E S (Beckenham)

L'Estrange M J (Billericay); Lal M (London); Langley D (Wirral); Lawrence-Sykes A J (Newcastle upon Tyne); Lee R A (Nottingham); Leigh A J (Eastbourne); Lennark J I (London); Lewis B R (Bristol); Lightfoot E (Leigh-on-Sea); Lord N J (Bromley); Luce A N (Chatham); Lyford T J (London); Lyons D F (London)

Macauley K P (London); Macfarlane-Brown J E (London); Macleod N A (Linlithgow); Madden A C (Witney); Mathias J E (Sutton Coldfield); Mawdsley J C (Winchester); May K C (Romney Marsh); Mayne H M (London); McBurney D S (Marlow); McCarthy R (Newcastle); McKay G P (Pulborough); McLeod E J (Elgin); McMath C M A (London); Medcalf T (Manchester); Mellor D C (London); Miller P T (Hinckley); Milner L A (London); Mithani P C (Leicester); Money J W (Cambridge); Moody-Stuart A (London); Moore N P (Feltham); Moore P J (Robertsbridge); Moore R L (Leeds); Mosca L G (Huntingdon); Mowbray V C (Sheffield); Musk T G (London)

Neale-Smith P (Purley); Nelson V J (London); Newark S D (Sidcup); Nicholls J L (Wolverhampton); Noble P G (London); Nolan S V (London)

Odonohoe M M (Croydon); Osborn C (Rossendale); Owodally M R (Sunderland)

Parker A P (Leeds); Parkin L (Kingston upon Thames); Pearson S A (London); Pendarves S (Ashford); Pendzel A M (Leicester); Perkins N M (London); Pickard J (Thornton Heath); Pitt-Jones P C (Enfield); Popkin A G (Bristol); Powell M F (Stockport); Proctor R S K (London)

Quick D J (Petersfield); Quinn V A (East Grinstead)

Rankin C A (Stourbridge); Ratford S A (Brentwood); Rathour S (London); Rayson L (Coventry); Rickson K (Sevenoaks); Ridge N B (London); Rigden S P (Birmingham); Roberts A C (Redhill); Robinson B A (Southampton); Rogers R H (Richmond); Rose A M (Nottingham); Rosser T R (Isleworth); Rudling D (Southampton)

Sanders K E (Melton Mowbray); Shabir M (Birmingham); Shah P (Harrow); Sharland S C (Christchurch); Sharma H-H (Hayes); Shaw L J (Sale); Sherlock E G (Heathfield); Shiels E C (Solihull); Short J I (Beckenham); Skidmore J P (Reading); Slater D R (Ware); Smith C (Jarrow); Smith R G (Chatteris); Sofield A M (Dunmow); Spence I (London); Spencer S L (London); Squires C C (Maesteg); Stainton H (Bury); Steiner E S-W (Redhill); Stephens R A (Ottery St Mary); †Sutton S C (Oxford); Swift S (Manchester)

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Vald S K (Coventry); †van der Waag B A (London); Vigar A A (Peterborough); Voller K D (Farnborough)

Wadhwani S (Beckenham); Walmsley B G E (London); Weatherley D A (Northampton); Wheatley G F M T (London); Whitehouse J M (London); Williams M J (Callington); Williams N C M (Sutton); Williamson D M (Uxbridge); Witchell J (Camberley); Wolanowska B (London); Woodward C D (Stoke-on-Trent); Work M D (Hull); Wright A M (Wells-Next-The-Sea); Wright G (Newcastle upon Tyne); Wright K L (Tipton)

Yamawaki T (London); Young K (London); Younger E K (Royston)

The Association of Taxation Technicians

In addition to success in the taxation examination, the criteria of experience and appropriate knowledge of Law and Accounting have to be satisfied to be eligible for membership of the Association.

Awards

The Association Medal for the best overall performance. Alec Donald Highnam (KPMG, London)

The Ivison Medal for the highest marks for the paper on Personal Taxation. Michael Joseph Galvin (Inland Revenue, Cheltenham)

The Jennings Medal for the highest marks for the paper on Business Taxation. Lesley Bettley (KPMG, Glasgow)

The Tolley Prize for the highest overall marks. Alec Donald Highnam (KPMG, London)

Distinctions

Lesley Bettley (KPMG, Glasgow); Lee Anthony Blackshaw (Kidsons Impey, Manchester); Allison Jane Day (Hunters, Solicitors, London); Simon Dixon (H W Fisher & Co, London); Richard David Ellard (KPMG, London); Michael Joseph Galvin (Inland Revenue, Cheltenham); Sarah Elizabeth Greenwood (PHH Europe plc, Swindon); Alec Donald Highnam (KPMG, London); Jacquelyn Michelle Jenkins (Clark Whitehill, Cheltenham); Christopher John Kilbane (BDO Stoy Hayward, London); Steven Alexander Logan (Deloitte & Touche, Nottingham); Victoria Rosalia Mazurkiewicz (Binder Hamlyn, Manchester); Thomas Ian Mitchell McCafferty (Inland Revenue, Coleraine); Helen Slater (Deloitte & Touche, London); John Eric George Weekes (Arthur Andersen, London); Graham Wilde (Deloitte & Touche, London); Kevin Wilkinson (Pannell Kerr Forster, Sheffield); Sharon Louise Woolner (Wright, Vigar & Co, Lincoln); Graham Bruce Wyllie (Ernst & Young, London)

†=Prizewinner *=Distinction

Addison M S (Caterham); Ahmad W (Gillingham); Allan K J (Weybridge); Allen M D (Bingley); Allison S T (Slough); Anderson P A (Nottingham); Andrews L J (Bristol); Ayres V E (London)

Balmer I (Southampton); Bateman M A (Longniddry); Bateman W A (Winchester); Becken C H (Spalding); Bennett S K (Chippenham); Bertini R M (Orpington); †*Bettley L (Glasgow); Bhar E L (London); *Blackshaw L A (Manchester); Bladon G M (Newton Abbot); Blake A (Worthing); Blakemore R S P (Ware); Bond J P (Witham); Bonham S K (Chertsey); Boulet C J A (Woking); Bourne P J (Solihull); Boyle S T (Gainsborough); Bradley N (Kidderminster); Bradley R W (Ashbourne); Brady A L (Ilford); Brame M V (South Ockendon); Brenton M (Blaenavon); Brice Hatch S J (Godalming); Brighton A J (Macclesfield); Broadberry A L C (London); Brooke Turner J E (London); Brown C M (Bristol); Brown C M A (Cleckheaton); Brown G C (Edinburgh); Brown M (Westcliff-on-Sea); Bryant L J (London); Bryant-Jefferies C G (Bath); Burnett A (Rochdale); Burton L (Wallington); Butcher A (London); Butcher J (Sheffield); Butt G M (Cardiff); Byrne C (Nottingham)

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Day* A J (London); *Dixon S J (London); Dodd A W (Erith); Douglas I G M (Norwich); Dowdy M T (Northampton); Doyle C D (Wallington); Drane S P A (Harrow); Duncan P B (Crediton); Dymock N L (Bristol)

Edmondson N S (Stockport); Edwards N L (Bristol); Egerton A M (London); *Ellard R D (London); Else E (Manchester); Evans R (Shrewsbury); Eyre E (Southsea)

Fairchild J P (Newcastle upon Tyne); Fenwick G (Edinburgh); Ferris P S (Downpatrick); Fielding R L M (London); Fletcher K S (Sheerness); Fletcher P B (Bolton); Fogg K D (Dartford); Foley P J (Londonderry); Forshaw D J (Liverpool); Forster S M J (Slough); Fowler E (Manchester)

Galvin†* M J (Cheltenham); Garnish S L (Leeds); Garvin R S (Ballynahinch); Gavin E J (Craigavon); Gawthrope J C (Lymm); Gillies A L (Waterlooville); Gittins P J (Heywood); Goddard R J (Brighton); Goldingay B E (New Romney); Gray S J (Edinburgh); *Greenwood S E (Swindon); Grove N J (Nuneaton)

Halford D J (Hitchin); Hall C D (Selby); Hall M (Nottingham); Hamilton J Y (Coleraine); Hardey G M (Stockton-on-Tees); Hardman A L (Keighley); Harris F A S (Tavistock); Harvey E P (Edinburgh); Head D R (Northwich); Heape J (Coventry); Heaps J M (Leicester); Heath P A (Godalming); Hedger D J (West Byfleet); Heggie M S (Bathgate); Henderson G (Durham); Hennessy J R (London); Herriman P R (Mitcham); Heron A M (Glasgow); Herridge J M (Farmhill, Isle of Man); †*Highnam A D (London); Hill L A (London); Holden K J (East Grinstead); Holman L A (Longfield); Hookway R J (Wellington); Hourihane J B (London); Howarth M (Manchester); Humphrey P (Bristol); Hunt J (Birmingham); Huseyin H Z (Swanley); Hutchinson W H (Derby)

Ikin D M (Altrincham); Ingram T (Ardrossan); Irvine H M (Ellon); Isherwood M J K (Bolton)

Jayasinghe R N A (London); Jelks S H (Malpas); *Jenkins J M (Cheltenham); Jennings D K (Manchester); Johnston M R (London); Johnstone M (Northampton); Jones E L (Leeds); Jones K L (Barnet); Jones W (Tamworth); Jordan D M (Alton)

Kelly B (Glasgow); Kelly D A (Cheadle); Kelly S J (Heywood); *Kilbane C J (London); Kingman V J (Cambridge); Kirk K M (Newcastle upon Tyne); Knight C L (London); Knight R A (Petersfield); Knott G P (Liversedge); Knox D I (Lisburn); Kumar M (Southall)

Lander I J (Godalming); Landers K J (Sidcup); Lawson G V (Billericay); Leverton C A (Romford); Lewin M T W (London); Lewis W G (Gloucester); Lofthouse H E (Blackburn); Loftus M E (Crawley); *Logan S A (Nottingham); Longley E S (Glasgow); Longworth N J (London); Lurkings E W H (Towcester); Lynch A (Chesterfield)

MacGregor S A (Wick); MacKay C S (Cupar); Maddox G (Liverpool); Marks J C (Brighton); Marshall F P (Mitcham); Mason P J (Shrewsbury); Massie E S J (Dundee); *Mazurkiewicz V R (Manchester); McCabe C A (Chester); *McCafferty T I M (Coleraine); McCallum S (London); Mckay C J (Coleraine); McKechnie G (Tranent); McKernan D A (Newry); McLeary P J (Lochwinnoch); McLeod I J (Bristol); McManus C (Irvine); McMordie A L (Altrincham); McNeill I J (Aberdeen); Meikle S (Edinburgh); Milham S J (Nottingham); Mitchell C J (Strathaven); Morgan R J (Chelmsford); Morrison A (Newcastle upon Tyne); Moulton S L (Wrexham); Mulholland B (London); Mullins J M (St Ouen, Jersey); Murdin C L (Southampton); Murray G P (Aberdeen); Myers N (Hornsea)

Nagal R (Birmingham); Nesbit D B (Surbiton); Nicholls S D (London); Nugent V A (Burgess Hill)

O'Brien J F B (Bristol); O'Donnell M B (Dungannon); Oakley J L (Bexley); Oldham A M (London); Orrow L J (Colchester); Orton L (Wellingborough); Owen T N (Cambridge)

Packer S V L (Swindon); Patel S R (Milton Keynes); Paterson L (London); Pattenden K (Reading); Pereira E D (Northampton); Philpot V (London); Pike K M (Peterborough); Plant J R (Wirral); Plummer D (Redhill); Polson D K (Edinburgh); Poole E J (London); Poole V A (Bristol); Pope G (Liverpool); Potter M D (Leeds); Powell L F (London); Pressley C N J (London); Pugh N T (Birmingham); Puskarz E M (London)

Quinn J (Bellshill)

Rafferty A (Glasgow); Rao S (Manchester); Rattigan M C P (Milton Keynes); Richards M (Basingstoke); Richmond H C (Stroud); Rigby L N (Stamford); Rose M P (Bromsgrove); Ross K L (Bordon); Rundle N A (Truro); Rutherford J A (York)

Salter R J (Waterlooville); Shah P (Harrow); Shanmugiaratnam S S (Bedford); Sharma D N (London); Skeels M (Colchester); Skinner A L (Invergordon); Slade C M (Stourport on Severn); *Slater H (London); Smith A (Ellon); Smith D J (Fleet); Smith K (Ipswich); So G (York); Sormaz R (Wokingham); Southgate J M (Lewes); Spinney A C (Lewes); Squire N D (Southampton); Squire S (Northampton); Stevens S L (Milton Keynes); Stevenson M A (Hull); Stone S J (North Walsham); Stribling M L (Basildon); Sullivan S L (Petworth); Sultan A (Manchester); Swain A P (Solihull)

Terry N O (Manchester); Thompson L (Newcastle upon Tyne); Thomson S (Wakefield); Thorne A J (Cambridge); Timms D J (Banbury); Todd G J (St Peter, Jersey); Tommony L S (Preston); Toner J M M (Oldham); Tucker C M (Windsor); Tulett H M (Faversham); Turley E L (Sutton Coldfield)

Ubhi S (Nottingham); Unwin P E (Hinckley)

Vallance H M (Okehampton); Varley M S (Chelmsford); Virden A J (North Walsham)

Wakefield G A (Portstewart); Walker N (Gateshead); Wall J A (Halifax); Walsh B A (London); Walton F G (Altrincham); Warburton S L (London); Wardle M (Gateshead); Warne A B (Peterborough); Warren P (Northampton); Wasmuth J F (Basildon); Watkins N (St Peter Port, Guernsey); Watson J E (Taunton); Watson J J (Chelmsford); Watson M M (Edinburgh); Watson S M (Durham); Webster S (Nottingham); *Weekes J E G (London); Weir J J (Carrickfergus); Wells M (Tenterden); Wells M J (Hove); West L A (Midhurst); White G (Sheffield); White S J (Luton); Whitehouse C M (Solihull); *Wilde G (London); *Wilkinson K (Sheffield); Williams C J (Sutton Coldfield); Williams P (London); Willson C E (Worthing); Wing D B J (Epsom); Woffenden P A (Goole); Wood S C (Crawley); *Woolner S L (Lincoln); Wright J W A (Southport); *Wyllie G B (London)

Yeboah C (London)

In addition 99 candidates passed the paper on The Principles of Law and 188 the paper on The Principles of Accounting. Of these the following received commendations:

The Principles of Law

Brown, M (Hays Allan, London); Sormaz, R (Inland Revenue, Reading); Raynsford-Smith, C (Professional Financial Consultants, Oxted); Smith, C R (Kernon & Co, London); Tilbury, A G (Arthur Andersen, London)

The Principles of Accounting

Dayman, H D (Francis Clark, Newton Abbot); Raynsford-Smith, C (Professional Financial Consultants, Oxted); Salisbury, J (Pannell, Kerr Forster, Liverpool); Taylor, J C (Arthur Andersen, London); Thorne, A J (Ernst & Young, Cambridge); Townson, P J (KPMG, Crawley); Unwin, P E (Deloitte & Touche, Leicester); Warrington, J (Genus Management, Wrexham)

The Chartered Institute of Taxation is Britain's senior professional body concerned solely with taxation, and the accrediting body for the examination reported on this page. It is multi-disciplinary, its 10,000 members being drawn from the professions, commerce, industry, the public sector and taxation authorities.

Further information can be obtained from the Institute at 12, Upper Belgravia Street, London SW1X 8BB (0171 235 9381).

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News supplier loses prime international customer

Cold winds blow through ITN

BRENDA MADDOX

You could call ITN an endangered species if it were not the only one of its kind. That's the trouble. How does anything unique prepare for the next generation?

Independent Television News (to give it the full name that no one ever uses) suffered a body blow last week when it lost its contract of nearly ten years with NBC Super Channel. The loss of £1 million a year from September will hurt. But something more is going: ITN World News's best showcase on the international market.

ITN does have other foreign customers — certain airlines and Channel 9 in Australia — but these are small fry compared to NBC. Worse, what NBC decided, in dropping ITN bulletins from its pan-European satellite and cable channel, is something that other television services might also come to decide — that they want to reposition their service towards more entertainment and that they will provide a specialised business channel themselves.

If only ITN had a serene future at home. But no. Its main customer, ITV, sees its other two big customers, Channels 4 and 5, as rivals. ITN's security of tenure with all three rests on the nod of the Independent Television Commission, and it is under enormous pressure to cut costs.

Pity may seem wasted when lavished on a well-managed organisation with an operating profit of nearly 20 per cent and a turnover of nearly £90 million. But anyone would feel sorry for a business heavily dependent on one surly customer whose contract runs out next year. (The deal between ITN and the ITV companies expires on December 31, 1997, although it may well be extended.) And if you are a British viewer, reliant on this admired news service, you begin to worry about its vulnerability.

ITN seems certain to have to lower the price it charges ITV for its news. Those ITV companies who are no longer ITN shareholders (they used to be by law until 1993) feel they are being milked for the benefit of the shareholders, as well as of their competitors, Channels 4 and 5.

The annual bill, £57 million, for ITN's *News at 12.40*, *5.40* and *Ten* is, they complain, far too high. In reply ITN has offered a cut to £42 million if the various ITV companies pick up the expenses for ITN in their regions. Can bed and breakfast in the provinces really cost that much? No matter. Even that whopping discount is unlikely to satisfy some of the disgruntled ITV companies. They would prefer to buy their national and international news from a rival source, such as BSkyB, the satellite service part-owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, if only the Independent Television Commission would recognise a second news provider.

Further cost-cutting pressure comes from the shareholders. There are two views of the consequences. One insists that ITN is ridiculously overmanned and extravagant, and that it will emerge the better for trimming. The other is that the cuts have gone so far that ITN is no longer a serious news-gathering organisation, that it is not investing enough in new technology and that the separate identity of Channel 4's *Seven O'Clock News* is being sacrificed as, shades of the BBC World Service, ITN is shunting news staffs together "to reap the benefits of the centralising resource teams".

ITN's current owners (Carlton, Granada, Reuters, United News, *Daily Mail* and *Scottish Television*) obviously believe they can have economies and profits, too. They probably also believe that they can sustain the high quality which has won countless awards, put brave ITN faces like Penny Marshall's in troubled corners of the world, and made Trevor McDonald and Jon Snow (to my mind) the most respected newsreaders in the land.

But the owners cannot have any illusion that there is a big global news market beckoning from beyond these shores. News is expensive, and international news, barring disasters, hard to sell. One country's big story is another's big yawn.

Anyway, CNN International has probably scooped what there is of a world market for 24-hour news in English. Its 30 news bureaus, its zany weather reports from Madagascar and downtown Seoul, and its bevy of gorgeous, slightly accented newsreaders are very welcome on the screen of a bleak hotel room in Shanghai or Bangalore, at least until the business news comes on. (They probably change it every day but I'm not convinced.) And it has taken CNNI costly years just to get its international advertising revenue to reach an annual $53 million.

Those people marching around to "Save the World Service" really ought to spare a prayer for ITN. The quality of its service bears watching. ITN is a curious British creature which has flourished under very controlled conditions, otherwise known as monopoly. You can like monopoly, or loathe it. But you can't pretend that ITN got as good as it is without it.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Election fever for Express

Testing times ahead: Lord Hollick and Lord Stevens

AFTER years of spaniel-like devotion to John Major and the Conservative Party, staff at the *Daily Express* will face a confusing time when the general election is finally announced.

While their newsdesks will no doubt be requiring them to dabble their fingers deep into the personal lives of Tony Blair and the Shadow Cabinet in an attempt to boost Mr Major's chances, their socialist millionaire owner Lord Hollick has other ideas.

Lord Hollick, chief executive of MAI, which recently merged with the Express stable's United News and Media, has announced to management that as soon as the first shots are fired in the election battle he will be heading straight for Walworth Road, where he will lend his mighty weight to the Labour campaign. Lord Hollick, whose partnership with United's Tory chairman Lord Stevens has been likened to the marriage of Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley, always insisted that despite boarding the Express's true-blue train his dedication to the Labour Party would remain intact.

But staff at Blackfriars anticipate that, come the election campaign, fur will fly. "If the *Express* treats Tony Blair like it treated Neil Kinnock during the last election, I fear Lord Hollick may not always see the funny side," said one.

● *GOOD news for women sick of the sight of slick television advertisements for cars they cannot afford. New research by Cowie, one of the country's largest motor retailers, suggests that the millions of pounds spent on pushing Clios, Fiestas, Peugeots and Puntos onto "independent" women have been largely wasted.*

Car companies will be less than delighted to learn that not only did the ads get on their nerves, but many could not even remember that they were advertising a car.

No comment...

NEWS reaches The Listener that that troubled ship the *Financial Times* is now casting its net around Canary Wharf in an effort to bring about a change in its fortunes.

Three months after making the first compulsory redundancies in 100 years, and after staff gave a vote of no confidence in the Editor, Richard Lambert, the *FT* is rumoured to be trawling the offices of *The Daily Telegraph* in search of its shrewd City editor, Neil Collins.

Collins, who has his own entry in Debrett's *People of Today*, is now understood to be being courted for a major position in the group.

Only a few weeks ago Collins was at the centre of more headhunting gossip when he was apparently sounded out by the Stock Exchange for a high profile position. It was rumoured that following the deluge of critical articles Collins had written about the Stock Exchange, it was considered prudent to have him on side...

In the picture

STILL over at Canary Wharf, an article in last week's *Sunday Telegraph* is causing smirks throughout the office. A lofty piece headlined "Princess vs the paparazzi" told how the press ratpack is besieging the Princess of Wales at a French villa and had a *News of the World* reporter grumbling that he was not being allowed to invade her privacy.

Alongside it was an illustrative picture of five journalists kicking their heels outside outside the villa.

But what *The Sunday Telegraph* article fails to mention is that its own news editor Chris Anderson is himself a former *News of the World* man or that the the main face in the picture was none other than Robert Hardman, distinguished writer at their flagship paper, *The Daily Telegraph*.

Using the oldest trick in the book

ADVERTISING

Eva Herzigova brought increased sales for Wonderbra

SEX sells — or rather the judicious use of sex in advertising can help to boost the sales of certain products.

This snappy conclusion was reached at a Marketing Society conference last week. The society took a look at 1995's most famously sexy campaigns — Club 18-30 and Wonderbra — and scrutinised how both achieved maximum effect with minimal budgets.

Delegates were told TBWA's shrewd use of model Eva Herzigova enhanced Wonderbra's meagre £650,000 adspend, inflating sales by 41 per cent on the previous year, while Club 18-30, spending a mere £350,000 through Saatchi and Saatchi, achieved a 35 per cent climb on the previous year.

These enviable case studies were compared with dismal attempts by other advertisers to hijack similarly saucy images and wording for their own supposed commercial gain. "We showed that you can use sex to sell if it is relevant to the product, but that it doesn't work where it is inappropriate to the brand or gratuitous," said a society spokesman.

HOOPER'S HOOCH, the controversial alcoholic lemonade from Bass which gained notoriety for supposedly encouraging under-age drinking, gains its first advertising agency this week.

The three finalists, Euro RSCG, Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters and DMB&B find out today who is to be charged with moving the brand on to its next stage.

It should be interesting to see how a smart above-the-line shop continues the role that below-the-line and PR has, to date, managed with such aplomb — achieving one of the biggest marketing successes in the alcoholic drinks sector for ten years.

J. WALTER THOMPSON staged an audacious training conference for about 20 of its clients last week on "How to do better in advertising".

The gist of the sessions was to educate the assembled advertisers about the vagaries and mysteries of the advertising process. They learnt how to conduct pitches, dream up creative ideas and negotiate terms with media owners — all of which were judged by JWT's very own in-house experts.

"There was no hidden agenda. We weren't trying to blind them with science or make them go away thinking 'Blimey, it's complicated stuff, this advertising business'," said David Kinnear, JWT's marketing manager.

BELINDA ARCHER

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John Goodbody is battling to stay in the media race at the Games

MICHAEL STEEL

Journalists get ready for the opening ceremony in Atlanta, minus one group who were driven into a scrapyard instead of the main stadium

Atlanta wins for chaos

A sigh of envy is always audible when I inform acquaintances that I am about to report the Olympic Games. Usually they volunteer to come as my assistant. For them, it is like having three weeks' holiday in the most luxurious hotel on the French Riviera and being paid for the experience. I am sorry to disillusion them: this is not how it is in Atlanta.

All Olympic Games, whose venues are spread over many hundreds of miles, are difficult to cover, even for *The Times*, which has sent 12 reporters plus freelances. The long hours are made worse by the time difference. However, it is the pressure that is so wearing, as 17,000 members of the media, including 5,000 reporters, battle to get results, quotes, places on buses, places in the stands and, above all, better stories, all against the deadlines of editions. As Bob Brennan, the press chief, says of the huge number of journalists who have arrived: "Now I know what a tidal wave looks like and smells like."

The Olympics are one of the most demanding assignments for any journalist. When I was woken up at 4.40am in Seoul in 1988 to be informed that Ben Johnson had been found positive for drugs after the 100 metres, I had 50 minutes to confirm the truth of the story and write 650 words for the front page.

However, what is making these Games particularly exhausting is the inefficiency of the organisation. Of all the eight summer Games that I have covered, I have never observed so much frustration and even anger from fellow journalists.

A French fencer was credited with the 400m record

You could better understand the problems if the United States did not pride itself on leading the world in efficient use of both technology and human resources. For journalists, these Games are, in many ways, worse organised than Barcelona, Seoul and Moscow, the last three Olympics staged outside North America.

Yet Atlanta starts with so many advantages. The hotels are superb. Ample food is available at any time. The people are pleasant and there is no language problem. Calls to Britain are simple.

Of course, access to the competitors has become increasingly awkward. Like so many sports events, the Olympics now consist of bland formal press conferences rather than informative personal briefings. Atlanta cannot be blamed for this. However, the organisers have particularly failed in providing an adequate transport and results service.

The accreditation process was the worst of any important sports event that I have covered anywhere in the world. On arrival at Hartsfield airport, journalists, competitors and Games officials were herded together to have their documents verified.

Horror stories abounded. I arrived at 9.15pm and only took two hours to be processed. Marc Aspland, the *Times* photographer, who arrived in mid-afternoon, took five hours. Competitors, many of whom had travelled from across the world, suffered equally, just before the most important competition of their lives.

The journey to the accommodation was often circuitous, largely because many of the drivers were not from Atlanta and did not know the area. For the opening ceremony, one group of journalists found themselves being driven into a scrapyard instead of the main stadium. The driver politely explained she did not know the way. The journey back from the Olympic stadium took this group more than three hours, a distance which could have been walked in 50 minutes.

It is little wonder that the world's oarsmen went on strike and had a sit-down in the Olympic Village because of the transport.

Americans thought they could take the Games in their stride

Although the International Olympic Committee has ordered the organisers to improve the transport, there is only a certain amount that can be done. Several streets have been closed in the centre of Atlanta and the increase of traffic because of the Games has resulted in huge jams.

A crucial error was also made when the organisers, for the first time ever for the Games, put the central bus depot a 15-minute drive away from the main press centre. Everyone therefore has to change buses at least once before they start their journeys to venues which can then take up to three hours.

Transport has always caused difficulties at the Olympics, if not on the scale of Atlanta. But at least I expected an efficient results service. With IBM having invested £50 million to be a worldwide Olympic sponsor and the lead "technology integrator" of the Games, journalists expected a quick, accurate service.

Yet results have been late and often wrong. One medal, won on Sunday, was not reported until 12 hours later. Reuters has had to warn its thousands of subscribers about problems and has begun compiling many of the results manually. Bob Brennan admits that when he was searching through the biography of a French fencer, he found he was credited with the world record for 400 metres.

Many people think the trouble lies in the Americans' belief that they could take the Games in their stride, rather than raising themselves to the challenge as many smaller countries would have done. They simply cannot cope with massive numbers of foreigners all demanding information. There is excessive bureaucracy and inflexibility of thought. Decisions get bogged down and people have been unable to adapt to the requirements of the world's biggest sporting festival.

A.D. Fraser, the chief finance officer for the Games, admits that there are problems. He compares the difficulty in getting new instructions carried out with the behaviour of a dinosaur. "The head sends a message and ten minutes later the tail wags." But with these organisers the message does not take minutes; sometimes it takes days.

Why the BBC finally accepts that age does matter

The aged feel they have not been catered for on screen, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

ONE of the great joys of being a BBC insider is knowing that *DEF II*, raucous brainchild of Janet Street-Porter, the Tsaritsa of "yoof" TV, attracted a disproportionately high audience of old age pensioners.

The corporation is now targeting the people who watch more television than any other age group with a new season of special programmes exploring what being elderly means today.

Clare Paterson, its executive producer, was influenced by her mother turning 60 and collecting her bus pass. "I'm not sure old age today is reflected adequately on the box," she says.

"Older people are probably not there enough, particularly older women. They are not reflected in all their diversity."

Her contribution, *Coming of Age*, is a fortnight of programmes on BBC2 next month including a two-part David Dimbleby documentary on global ageing and a succession of grillings by Professor Anthony Clare of elderly achievers like Lord Deedes, Sir John Harvey Jones and Doris Lessing.

The fact that older people still make love is also acknowledged in a 50-minute investigation entitled *Grey Sex*.

But if Ms Paterson hopes her season will lead to an increase in honest images of old age on the small screen, she will be disappointed.

Wrong image? *One Foot in the Grave*

Victor Meldrew, the grumpy subject of *One Foot in the Grave*, is the most familiar image of old age on our screens, but he infuriates many campaigners on behalf of the elderly. Pat Seers, 75, who sits on the executive of Age Concern, says: "He is a caricature isn't he?" Gilly Crosby, of the Centre for Policy on Ageing says: "The whole image is very negative." Alison Rose, of Help The Aged, agrees: "People might think all older people are complaining. He is probably not a very good role model."

The BBC has the perfect excuse: it does not accept that Victor Meldrew is an image of an *older* person, just a *redundant* one. "He is not that old," says a spokeswoman. "It is about a man who all sorts of extraordinary things happen to. He could have been any age."

The comedy series *Waiting For God* won universal acclaim for the authenticity of its portrayal of life in a retirement village: sex, death, decrepitude and all. This was no accident. "I got on to Age Concern and virtually became their propaganda arm for five years," says Michael Aitkens, the writer.

Before each series, he asked what issues the pressure group wanted exposed, then wrote sketches around topics like prostates and bus passes. He won plaudits for including a bedroom scene but admits he was unaware for years that the people he was writing about still indulged. "I was into my third series before a Scottish doctor told me that in these places, parties and sex are uppermost in their minds," he said. "It struck a huge chord when they got into the sack together. I felt ashamed that I hadn't thought of it until then."

Waiting For God was inspired by his anger watching the demise of his elderly mother but he killed the show after five series because there are only so many laughs in old age and then it stops being funny. His mother has reached the stage where she reports her minders to the police and has difficulty remembering who the members of her family are. As Mr Aitkens says: "You can't make jokes about Alzheimer's."

The BBC was brave enough to launch *Waiting For God* in 1990 but the increasing commercial pressure on television, including the imperative to sell shows abroad, makes such future experiments less likely. Mr Aitkens says: "I am trying to launch it in America but they are saying 'How can we get the youth market?' There is a huge audience among the elderly. They watch TV more than anyone but the advertisers only want audiences between 20 and 40 because after 40 you don't change brands."

He is scathing about *The Golden Girls*, America's feelgood sitcom concerning Florida matrons, which won big audiences here for Channel 4, delighting advertisers. "That was just three chicks sharing a house and dating," he says. "It was very funny but they never discussed incontinence or breast cancer or anything like that."

Carla Lane, creator of the formidable and vituperative Grandad in the 1980s sitcom *Bread*, says comedy writers are under increasing pressure to deliver lots of laughs. The easiest way is to write about sex. "That is sad," she says, "and inhibits you writing about old people because they don't talk about sex and that's part of their dignity. The poignancy of old people is lovely but there certainly isn't enough of it. If you wrote it, would the powers-that-be accept it, because everything has changed? One is under pressure to make people laugh loudly and often. The subtle stories are going.

"I have a struggle getting over my rather miserable comedy. People like it but heads of department don't. Television has become big business like everything in this world. It's nothing to do with being creative any more and taking chances and saying 'We may not get the viewers but it's a lovely thing, let's do it'. John Birt and Alan Yentob are frightened of making decisions."

An unpublished survey of 1,200 older people by the Anchor housing association two months ago found only 30 per cent were happy with the way they were portrayed on television.

The over-65s have particular tastes that the new commercial channels will find hard to indulge. Viewing figures so far this year show they prefer *Antiques Roadshow* to *Coronation Street* and *Songs of Praise* to *Blind Date*.

Among older viewers resorting to the off-button is George Melly, 69, who believes he was awfully lucky to have been a television critic during the 1960s, when he recalls reviewing marvellous plays and wonderful documentaries. "Today," he says, pausing over a good book before going out on the town for a night of singing, "I only watch nature things and *Antiques Roadshow*."

Has the Palace's decision to strip the Princess of Wales of her HRH backfired?

A vexed question of who should curtsy to whom

When the Princess of Wales returns to London today from her holiday with Fergie in the south of France, she will find that she has scored another victory over the Royal Family, and again outwitted all the sleek advisers to the Queen and Prince Charles.

The decision to strip the Princess of the title Her Royal Highness — even though it was she who first offered to relinquish it, according to the usual "trusted sources" — has become Buckingham Palace's biggest public-relations disaster yet.

Across the political spectrum, editors and commentators have been unusually united in condemning the decision. Letters to editors have disclosed a swelling disenchantment with Prince Charles, an aversion to Camilla Parker Bowles and, more damaging, unusually vituperative criticism of the Queen, particularly among her most loyal subjects — elderly, royalist women.

Princess Diana has even managed to survive her own public-relations gaffe when she announced last week that she was severing her connection with 100 charities. It had been planned for weeks but was quickly spin-doctored into a reaction to the loss of her title. Even so, even her most loyal Fleet Street supporters condemned her self-pity, petulance and pique. The Princess should have a care, said the *Daily Mail*. Revenge and charity did not mix well.

Yet as Keith Waterhouse observed in the same paper, she is the "Houdini of the House of Windsor" who always manages to come up smelling of roses.

One of the most forthright critics of the Palace was Anthony Holden. "The royal display of cold, calculating ruthlessness has been breathtaking," he said in the *Daily Express*. "In the past ... I have compared the Windsors with the Borgias in their grim determination to hang on to everything at all costs. The brutality of this latest exercise of power is worthy of Coppola's Corleones."

That criticism was shared by Paul Johnson in the *Daily Mail* and William Rees-Mogg in *The Times*. Johnson's main target was Prince Charles. The divorce he had forced on Diana was an insult to loyal Anglicans and angered many other Christians, especially Catholics. The Queen's decision, which Charles had failed to prevent, was a deliberate blow to the family principle. To Rees-Mogg, the decision looked "mean and ill-judged" but the title was likely to be restored eventually when her son William became king.

Holden received a record postbag and was surprised by the vehemence of the support he got from middle England. The letters spoke of "the obnoxious Palace hierarchy". "Charles and his dreadful family", described the Prince as "a liar and a cheat", and attacked the Queen as "petty, small-minded, selfish, unprincipled and spiteful".

Sun readers responded in the same disgusted manner, according to its Editor, Stuart Higgins. They saw the Queen's decision as "uncharacteristically cruel and callous", inspired by a desire for revenge on a Princess who had done more to save the Royal Family than to harm it. More than 69,000 readers had signed a *Daily Mirror* petition urging the Queen to restore the HRH title, the paper announced yesterday. The letters in support expressed an equal measure of shock at the treatment of the Princess.

There is no better way of reviving a flagging dinner party than by asking friends if they support Charles or Di. We all have an opinion, even Nobel prizewinners, according to Holden (and since you ask I'm more for Charles than Di). Yet in the past week, apart from Jonathan Dimbleby in *The Sunday Telegraph* (a paper that is usually an avid supporter of the Princess) there have been no articles in support of Prince Charles and only a few anti-Diana articles.

Quite the most venomous was by Richard Littlejohn writing in the *Daily Mail*: "Diana has always manipulated her charity 'work' to fit her own personal agenda and upstage her husband, right down to the last stage-managed tear and expensive, cleavage-enhancing frock ... Even her resignation letter smacks of self-obsession. 'Although I am embarking upon the future with hope, I also do so with some trepidation'. Who cares? Save it for your shrink, pet."

Only two commentators — Robert Harris in *The Sunday Times* and Edward Pearce in the *Daily Mail* — have bothered to address the question that ought to be asked, which is why any of us — it is, after all, 1996 — should be addressed as His or Her Royal Highness, or why any of us should bow or curtsy to anybody, except perhaps to the Queen.

Sometimes, Harris said with feeling, he read the papers and thought he must be going mad. Surely he had to be hallucinating when he read that the mother of the heir to the throne was now technically required to curtsy to her own children: "I think this must be a dream — a satire of some sort. But no ... this is true! This is the state our country has reached in 1996."

The paradox of the past two weeks is that even as readers of the tabloids demand that the Princess of Wales remains Her Royal Highness, so the Queen's decision has made quite a few more of them into avid republicans.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

EU tries to halt panic over sheep

■ European officials were trying to smother a "mad sheep" crisis yesterday as livestock markets showed the first signs of panic. As ministers insisted that sheep were most unlikely to contract BSE, Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, was criticised for kindling the latest flare-up in the "mad cow" saga.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said that British lamb was safe and there was no need for a lamb crisis "if people are sensible" .... **Pages 1, 8**

Woman loosens male grip on whips

■ Jacqui Lait broke into one of the remaining male bastions in the Commons by becoming the first woman to enter the hallowed territory of the *Conservative whips office. She* was one of four new appointments in John Major's latest reshuffle .... **Page 1**

Bribe claim rejected

Richard Branson's claim that he was offered a bribe to pull out of bidding to run the National Lottery has been dismissed by the QC who investigated his al*legations* .... ***Page 1***

Palace party struck

Three women were injured when they were struck by lightning as they attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace as spectacular storms spread across the Southeast .... **Pages 1, 24**

Call for surgery curbs

Tighter controls on the number of non-doctors performing operations and medical procedures are being demanded by consultants' leaders amid fears that risks to patients are rising .... **Page 2**

Judge halts trial

A judge has halted the trial of a policeman accused of indecent assault against two female con*stables saying the defendant* should have had a "sound ticking-off" .... **Page 3**

High Court 'hell'

Kathy Botham told a High Court jury of the "hell" she had endured as old allegations of sex, drugs and adultery against her husband had resurfaced .... **Page 5**

History of failure

A report claims that Scottish history lessons dwell too much on heroic failures and gloss over the nation's achievements .... **Page 6**

Angels depart

Carved cherubs and angels with gilt wings that were part of a 19th-century high altar at St Paul's Cathedral have been sold to America after attempts to save them *for the nation failed* .... ***Page 7***

Britten gets the bird

Proposals for a statue of Benjamin Britten in the town where he lived for 30 years have been rejected after councillors said they would rather money be spent on a bird table .... ***Page 7***

TWA bomb traces

Investigators are trying to confirm a preliminary test revealing traces of a rare explosive on a piece of the wreckage of TWA Flight 800 .... **Page 10**

Atlanta chaos

Organisers of the Atlanta Olympics are trying desperately to stop the centennial Games being renamed the "problems Games" .... **Pages 11, 48**

Tamil toll mounts

The Sri Lankan Army and Tamil Tigers are locked in one of the greatest slaughters of the civil war, with 1,000 killeed in six days of fighting .... **Page 12**

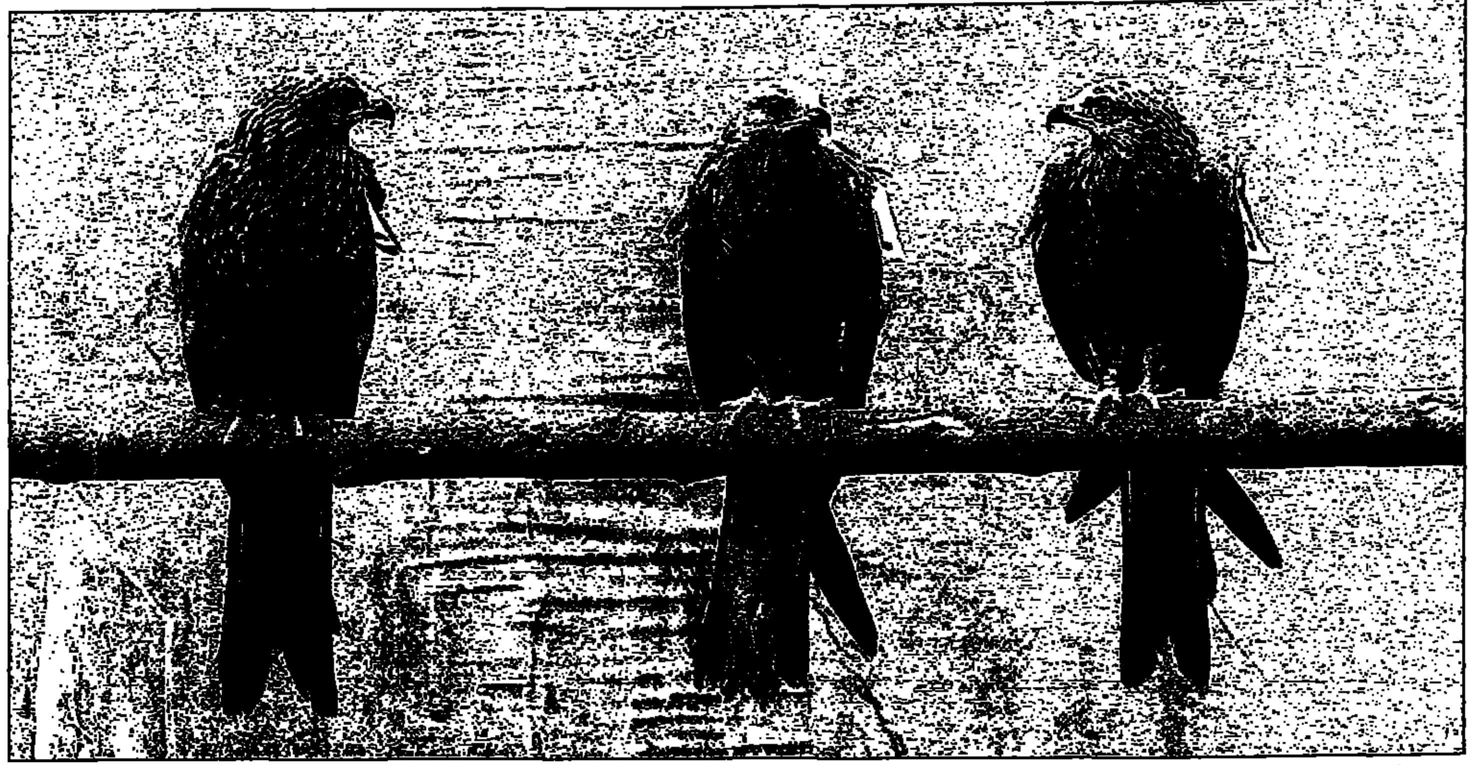
Row over viaduct

Sir Norman Foster, the British *architect, has won a competition* to design a vast viaduct in the south of France, sparking protests that his structure will scar the countryside .... **Page 13**

Booze beat Beethoven to the bar

■ A scientist claims that some of Beethoven's music might have been inspired by a heart condition brought on by heavy *drinking. He believes the sound of Beethoven's miss-beating* heart became a key influence, heightened by his deafness. Researchers believe that Beethoven died from kidney failure and liver damage from excessive drinking .... **Page 5**

PAUL ROGERS



Red Kites, extinct in Britain for a century, were released into the wild near Birmingham yesterday as part of a five-year plan

BUSINESS

Economy: Business leaders urged the Chancellor to prepare a "cautious" Budget on the basis of new evidence from industry showing modest improvement in manufacturing .... **Page 25**

Halifax: The Halifax Building Society, which is soon to be floated, is to shed 1,200 jobs at its head office .... **Page 25**

Carpet baggers: Allied Carpet's shares romped to a 19p premium on their first day of trading, closing at *234p* .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 27.1 points and at the close stood at 3708.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index also rose from 84.7 to 84.9 after an increase from $1.5498 to $1.5511 and from DM2.3033 to DM2.3108 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Olympic Games: Great Britain gained a valuable point from an exciting 2-2 draw with Holland, the favourites in pool B, in the men's hockey competition .... **Page 48**

Cricket: A mixture of legal, medical and meteorological considerations is confusing England's preparation for the first Test match against Pakistan at Lord's .... **Page 48**

Football: Jordi Cruyff, of Barcelona and Holland, is set to become the next big-name foreign player to appear in Britain. He is negotiating with Manchester United .. **Page 40**

Racing: Kempton Park is to be extensively redeveloped at a cost of £8 million. The project is geared towards introducing a sense of atmosphere now lacking on racedays .... **Page 41**

ARTS

King of thrills: Jan De Bont explains why, when he is directing high-speed thrillers like *Speed* or the new *Twister*, he finds the presence of big-name stars more irksome than helpful .... **Page 32**

Mercurial talents: The shortlist for the Mercury Music Prize, announced yesterday, includes the veteran Irish singer Norma Waterson and the classical composer Peter Maxwell Davies as well as Oasis and Pulp .... **Page 32**

Opera on the box: Broadcasting more opera on television will not by itself end claims of elitism, Rodney Milnes writes .... **Page 33**

City lights: At the Royal Court a fine new play, *The Lights*, paints a savage picture of city-life in the near future .... **Page 34**

FEATURES

Beyond the boundaries: The new nude musical, *Voyeurz*, opens in a bedroom — and it is all downhill from there, reports Rachel Campbell-Johnston who went on opening night .... **Page 15**

First for warmth: *Joe Connolly is* overcome by the politeness and warmheartedness of people in Atlanta — not to mention the upper 90s heat .... **Page 15**

STYLE

Early for autumn: Fake-fur collars and maxi-coats will keep out the cold this year, and are already *coming into the shops* .... ***Page 14***

MEDIA

First for chaos: John Goodbody has covered eight Olympics, but has never seen anything as inefficient as Atlanta .... **Page 23**

Grey power: The BBC is finally taking notice of older people with a special season of programmes on being elderly .... **Page 23**

THE PAPERS

Spanish hoteliers live under fear that further attacks on the tourist industry by Eta could severely restrict the number of visitors. For a country that regards tourism as its most important economic indicator, this is a very dangerous development. With its latest series of bomb attacks, Eta has closed the door to further peace talks

— *Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS

Geoff Brown reviews the spectacular *Twister*, with Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton (left), and other new releases

■ BOOKS

Jonathan Meades on Leni Riefenstahl; Enoch Powell on Randolph Churchill

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The surviving Dionne sisters tell their story. *Inside Story: Miracle Babies* (BBC1, 9.30pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond finds *EastEnders* running out of credibility .... **Page 47**

OPINION

A dim reshuffle

One sign of a long, drawn-out administration is that there are more gifted ex-ministers on the back benches than promising newcomers on their way up .... **Page 17**

A process continues

The meeting between Yassir Arafat and David Levy is a promising beginning. A steady political dialogue creates the conditions for mutually beneficial co-operation on the ground .... **Page 17**

Yule in July

The modern Yuletide instruction is not: "If you believe in Father Christmas, post your letter up the chimney." Nowadays it is: "If you believe in Father Christmas, log on" .... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

GORDON BROWN

The welfare state is failing. The real debate is between privatisation, increasingly advocated on the Right, and modernisation of the welfare state .... **Page 16**

ALAN COREN

As I glanced down, I saw that, beneath me, there were 22 toes and, God help me, I looked up at him, and then looked down again, and, worst of all, looked down long enough for him to have no doubt at all about what I was now doing. I was counting .... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

The real difference between the parties on Europe is that Tony Blair could lead his party into a single currency, if he decided there were economic advantages for Britain, whereas John Major cannot, even if he wanted to .... **Page 9**

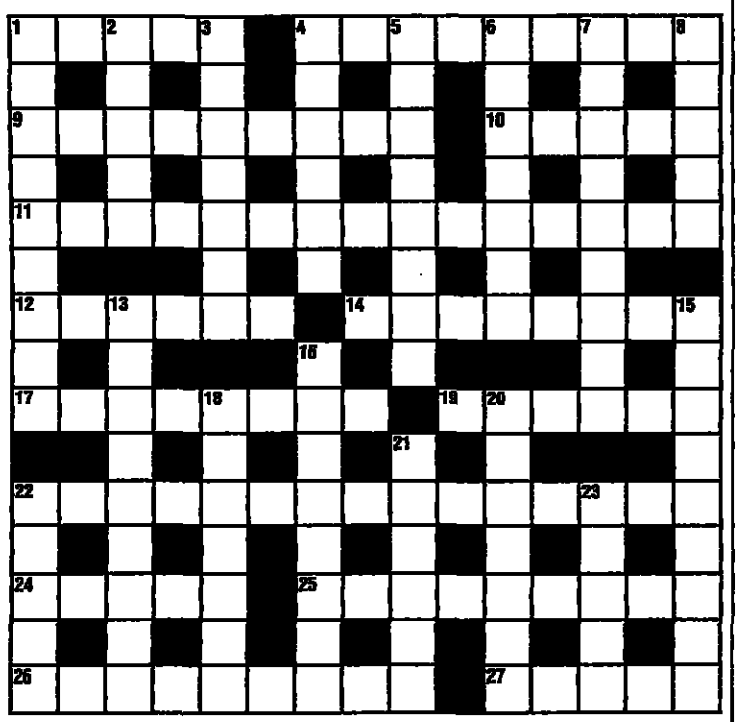
OBITUARIES

Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Mitchell, soldier and politician; **Robert Collins**, musician; **James Tye**, director-general of the British Safety Council; **Professor John Fozard**, aeronautical engineer .... **Page 19**

LETTERS

Post Office monopoly; criteria for monetary union; Haydn's *Creation* in German .... **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,228



ACROSS

1 Joke I finally see, told in old language (5).
4 Hikes, using support groups (9).
9 In a study, one's put on string instrument (9).
10 Saw result of one footballer being off? (5).
11 Authority that Hebrew poets misused (3,6,4,2).
12 Fastening appears to give way (6).
14 Money-making knowledge (8).
17 School whip used to distress girls, so to speak (4,4).
19 Take diplomat in fancy car to inner city area (6).
22 Quarter to one, mind, is wrong time (6,9).
24 Make do by shortening this (5).
25 Taken down, these lines begin to make extra sense (9).
26 Reported agreement to introduce planned fare gradually (9).
27 This controller can get depressed by Oxford (5).

DOWN

1 Ready for bed, arrange board underneath (9).
2 Shell liner in North American port (5).
3 Whimsical author makes vehicle turn over (7).
4 Was very angry, yet kind of sweet (6).
5 Container of cold wine tipped over (8).
6 One tries to remove batter from jug (7).
7 Pinch name held by two firms (9).
8 Playwright to give voice — listen! (5).
13 Fried dish made from game — the outer parts only (9).
15 Plant found under logs, going wild (9).
16 Emphatic sort of type, showing impudence (4-4).
18 Cook ached to get discharge from cell here (7).
20 Raises call for surrender (5,2).
21 Graduate upset — said to be unprincipled (6).
22 Tired US official's rebellious (3,2).
23 It describes the investment of a decade (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,227

P	O	S	T	M	A	R	K		E	L	D	E	R	S
A		T		I		E		T		A		R		E
P	O	R	T	M	A	N	T	E	A	U	W	O	R	D
A		A		E		A		N		N		D		A
C	A	P	I	T	A	L		O	D	D	M	E	N	T
Y		L		I				N		E				E
	M	E	R	C	E	D	E	S		R	O	W	E	L
D		S				E		A				A		Y
A	T	S	E	A		N	O	W	A	D	A	Y	S	
N				L		A				R		F		C
E	N	C	L	A	I	R		T	R	Y	S	A	I	L
G		E		R		I		W		S		R		O
E	X	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
L		I		E		S		C		L		N		E
D	E	L	U	D	E		N	E	S	T	E	G	G	S

Times Two Crossword, page 48

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 35 per cent of the solo competitors in the Birmingham Regional Final of *The Times* Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 30 per cent of the pairs.

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Greater London	701
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Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5 13 am
Sun sets: 9 00 pm
Moon sets 2.40 pm
Moon rises 12.05 am

Full moon July 30

London 9.00 pm to 5 14 am
Bristol 9.10 pm to 5.24 am
Edinburgh 9 35 pm to 5.05 am
Manchester 9.18 pm to 5 14 am
Penzance 9 16 pm to 5.42 am

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FORECAST

☐ **General**: eastern counties of England will have a rather cloudy day, with *morning rain. Other areas will be dry* and bright, with sunny spells developing from the West.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mainly dry day, but drizzle may return to western Scotland later.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England**: patchy rain dying out. Wind north or northwest, moderate or fresh, decreasing. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, Central N**: dry with *sunny spells. Wind northwest*, light. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands**: sunny spells. Wind northwest, light. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Aberdeen**: coastal drizzle at first, then *sunny intervals. Wind northwest*, mainly moderate. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland**: mainly dry with sunny intervals. Wind mainly northwest, moderate to light. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland**: sunny spells, becoming cloudy, drizzle later. Wind northwest becoming southwest, light. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Outlook**: some drizzle in the North and West, sunny intervals in the South.

☐ **Pollen forecast**: N Scotland, E Midlands, SE England, London, low; E Anglia, low to moderate; W Midlands, N Wales, moderate; S Scotland, N England, N Ireland, SW England, moderate to high; S Wales, high.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

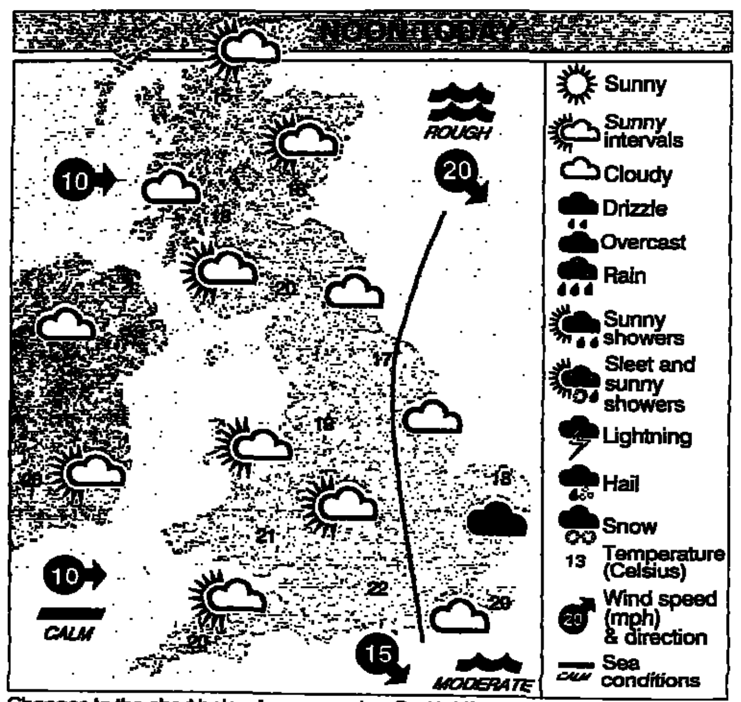
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	1.10	18	64	sh	London	7.6	0.07	26	79	f
Anglesey	3.9	-	19	66	b	Manchester	8.5	-	24	75	b
Aviemore	-	0.81	16	61	r	Margate	10.0	0.03	23	73	f
Belfast	-	0.10	17	63	sh	Minehead	10.9	-	21	70	s
Birmingham	6.2	0.02	26	79	f	Morecambe	7.3	0.01	21	70	s
Bognor R	12.9	-	26	79	s	Newcastle	4.6	0.10	23	73	f
Bournem'th	11.9	0.01	25	77	s	Newquay	6.3	-	19	66	b
Bristol	7.2	0.01	23	73	s	Norwich	3.6	0.02	23	73	sh
Cardiff	10.7	-	21	70	s	Penzance	X	-	21	70	s
Clacton	8.9	0.06	23	73	f	Poole	12.5	-	29	84	s
Colwyn Bay	2.6	-	20	68	s	Prestatyn	X	0.01	20	68	b
Cromer	4.8	0.01	23	73	b	Ross-o-wye	7.9	0.01	26	79	f
Eastbourne	13.6	0.15	24	75	s	Ryde	12.8	0.01	26	79	s
Exmouth	8.4	-	23	73	s	Salcombe	10.0	-	22	72	s
Fishguard	2.3	0.02	16	61	fg	Saunton Snd	5.1	-	19	66	s
Folkestone	10.9	-	24	75	b	Scarboro'	7.8	-	20	68	s
Glasgow	0.6	0.09	19	66	c	Shanklin	12.9	0.01	X	X	s
Guernsey	14.0	-	23	73	s	Skegness	4.0	0.01	24	75	c
Hayling I.	13.0	-	25	77	s	Southend	X	0.24	28	82	s
Hove	11.1	0.06	29	84	s	Southport	4.2	0.01	20	68	b
Hunstanton	6.4	-	24	75	s	Southsea	11.4	0.01	25	77	s
Isle of Man	7.2	0.04	20	68	c	Swanage	12.0	0.02	23	73	s
Jersey	7.8	-	21	70	s	Teignmouth	9.0	-	23	73	b
Leeds	8.4	0.01	26	79	f	Torquay	9.1	-	24	75	b
Lerwick	0.1	0.79	12	54	r	Ventnor	13.0	0.01	24	75	s
Littlehmptn	12.4	0.01	27	81	s	Weymouth	12.3	0.01	20	68	s

ABROAD

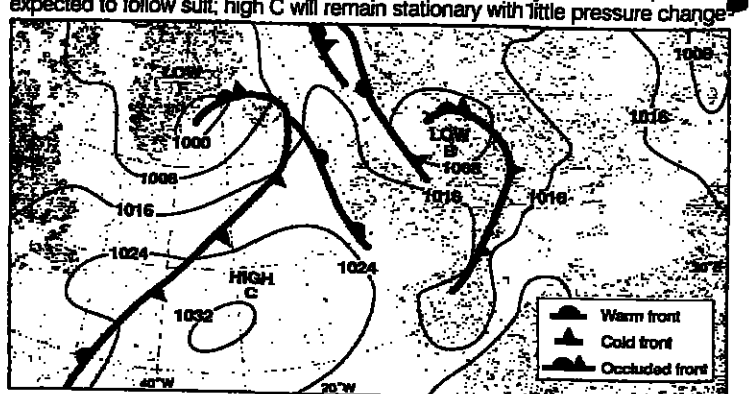
Ajaccio	26	79	s	C'phagn	21	70	s	Majorca	29	84	s	Rome	26	79	s
Akrotiri	30	86	s	Dublin	17	63	r	Malaga	28	82	s	S Fr'isco	21	70	s
Alex'dria	29	84	f	Dubrovnik	24	75	s	Malta	27	81	f	S Paulo	9	48	d
Algiers	31	88	s	Faro	28	82	s	Melb'rne	14	57	f	Salzburg	23	73	s
Amst'dm	28	82	c	Florence	27	81	s	Mexico C	14	57	f	Santiago	6	43	f
Athens	30	86	s	Frankfurt	24	75	s	Miami	28	82	s	Seoul	25	77	c
B Aires	-1	30	s	Funchal	23	73	f	Milan	27	81	s	Sing'por	31	88	s
Bahrain	39	102	s	Geneva	24	75	s	Montreal	18	64	s	St'kholm	23	73	s
Bangkok	27	81	r	Gibraltar	27	81	f	Moscow	14	57	r	Strasb'rg	25	77	s
Barbados	28	82	f	Helsinki	21	70	f	Munich	21	70	s	Sydney	17	63	s
Barcelona	26	79	f	Hong K	26	79	r	N Delhi	32	90	f	Tangier	31	88	s
Beirut	29	84	f	Innsbrck	23	73	s	N York	21	70	s	Tel Aviv	30	86	f
Belgrade	25	77	f	Istanbul	25	77	f	Nairobi	X			Tenerife	28	82	s
Berlin	23	73	f	Jeddah	36	97	s	Naples	29	84	s	Tokyo	28	82	c
Bermuda	27	81	f	Jo'burg	14	57	f	Nice	26	79	s	Toronto	16	61	s
Biarritz	35	95	s	Karachi	X			Oslo	21	70	s	Tunis	29	84	s
Borde'x	33	91	s	L Angels	23	73	s	Paris	29	84	s	Valencia	30	86	s
Brussels	28	82	s	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	31	88	s	Vanc'ver	21	70	s
Budapst	22	72	s	Le Tquet	28	82	s	Perth	18	64	f	Venice	-	-	-
Cairo	32	90	s	Lisbon	25	77	s	Prague	21	70	s	Vienna	22	72	f
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Locarno	23	73	s	Reykjavik	11	52	s	Warsaw	17	63	f
Ch'church	7	45	-	Luxembg	25	77	s	Rhodes	26	79	s	Wash'ton	23	73	r
Chicago	14	57	s	Luxor	39	102	s	Rio de J	16	61	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	-
Cologne	26	79	s	Madrid	34	93	s	Riyadh	44	111	s	Zurich	23	73	s
Corfu	26	79	f												

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low B will drift slowly east and fill; low F is expected to follow suit; high C will remain stationary with little pressure change



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:12	6.3	7:26	6.2	Leith	8:07	4.7	8:39	4.6
Aberdeen	6:58	3.6	7:35	3.5	Liverpool	4:26	8.0	5:01	7.8
Avonmouth	-	-	12:24	10.7	Lowestoft	2:54	2.1	2:58	2.3
Belfast	4:28	3.3	5:05	3.1	Margate	5:14	4.2	5:27	4.2
Cardiff	-	-	12:14	9.7	Milford Haven	11:40	5.5	-	-
Devonport	11:00	4.5	11:22	4.5	Newquay	10:43	5.3	11:18	5.3
Dover	3:55	5.7	4:33	5.7	Oban	11:09	3.0	11:24	3.1
Dublin (N Wall)	5:05	3.5	5:41	3.4	Penzance	10:03	4.5	10:36	4.5
Falmouth	10:27	4.2	11:04	4.2	Portland	11:40	1.4	11:51	1.4
Greenock	5:38	3.0	6:28	2.8	Portsmouth	4:22	4.0	4:58	4.1
Harwich	5:08	3.5	5:26	3.4	Shoreham	4:06	5.1	4:41	5.2
Holyhead	3:30	4.7	4:14	4.5	Southampton	3:50	4.0	4:27	4.0
Hull (Albert D)	11:31	6.3	-	-	Swansea	11:39	7.6	-	-
Ilfracombe	11:21	7.5	11:51	7.5	Tees	9:18	4.5	9:59	4.4
King's Lynn	11:53	5.3	-	-	Walton-on-Naze	5:03	3.7	5:22	3.6

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hove, East Sussex, 29C (84F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, 1.1in; highest sunshine: Guernsey, 14.0hr.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 24 JULY 1996

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	300
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	1,692
Cost to RNLI per day:	£173,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603

THE TIMES 2

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
WEDNESDAY JULY 24 1996

Bank moves to plug flaws exposed by Barings collapse

By Robert Miller

THE Bank of England will today announce wide-ranging reforms that are intended to remedy deficiencies exposed by the £830 million collapse of Barings.

The Bank will respond to criticism of its role in supervising Barings before the crash, when it publishes a nine-month review of supervision, conducted by Arthur Andersen, the accountant.

A key aspect of the review is expected to embrace methods used by the Bank's supervision and surveillance department [illegible]ing and retaining staff. It could also cover the range and level of training and qualification available to supervisors within the Bank.

The Board of Banking Supervision, an independent arm of the Bank, was accused yesterday by a former Barings executive of bowing to "commercial reality and political pressure" in compiling its report into the Barings collapse. Ron Baker, previously head of Barings' financial products group, told the Commons Treasury Select Committee that the conclusions in the board report were "utterly at odds [illegible] facts. They were biased by commercial reality and political pressure." He added that the committee would be "forever damned by the conclusions of that report".

Afterwards Mr Baker said: "I answered questions about Nick Leeson's trading in the bogus five 8s account. Then when I said I was unable to comment on his illicit trading this was portrayed wrongly in the report as a lack of understanding on my part of his authorised dealing activities."

Ian Hopkins, former head of group treasury and risk at Barings, also delivered a damning indictment at yesterday's hearing on the lack of supervision and risk controls at Barings Securities. He was also critical of the report saying that he had been "very badly let down", even though he had acted as a "whistleblower" over his concerns about the risk controls, or lack of them, months before the crash.

Mr Hopkins said that had Peter Norris, previously chief executive officer, accepted his proposal for a treasurer to be appointed to the bank's Asian operations in 1994, [illegible] might not have collapsed, even though it was technically bankrupt by that stage. "I found myself pretty much a lone voice at meetings at which there was a lot of table banging and shouting and raised voices. I did everything I could in a difficult and hostile environment."

He said that the reason given for not sending a treasurer to check on the Far East operations was one of cost and that such a role was not in the annual £200,000 budget.

When pressed by MPs, Mr Hopkins said he thought that Mr Norris "took my points as being critical of the structure he put in place". That structure, he indictated, hid a "a raft" of serious reconciliation problems not solely related to Leeson's fraudulent trading.

Both Mr Hopkins and Mr Baker said they believed they had been wrongly cast as the two executives most responsible for failing to detect Leeson's activities. Mr Baker said it was "probably easier to blame a bearded Australian (himself)" than other more senior directors.

City Diary, page 29

CBI pleads case for a cautious Budget

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, was urged yesterday to prepare a "cautious" Budget, on the basis of new evidence from industry showing a modest improvement in manufacturing, including an increase in business confidence for the first time in more than a year.

The latest Confederation of British Industry quarterly trends survey showed increases in orders and output. But business leaders gave warning that the pace of improvement was "by no means assured", and pressed the Chancellor against any further changes in interest rates.

The survey suggests that employment is still falling, with a balance of 17 per cent of companies saying that they are cutting jobs — 18,000 in the last three months, and probably 23,000 in the next quarter, the CBI said.

Government ministers welcomed the CBI survey as clear evidence of economic improvement, though CBI leaders were considerably more tentative about its results, suggesting that while they indicated manufacturing was beginning to revive, it was still not performing as well as other sectors of the economy.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of the CBI's economic affairs committee and of Barclays Bank, said: "Manufacturing activity is beginning to pick up after grinding to a halt at the beginning of this year."

While he cited increases in business confidence, and manufacturers' expectations of rising domestic and export orders, he gave warning that "the strength of the expected bounce-back in manufacturing demand and output is not a foregone conclusion — with firms' expectations disappointed over the past year".

Nevertheless, Angela Knight, the Treasury's Economic Secretary, said: "The survey confirms a growing mood of optimism among manufacturers. Output, orders, optimism and investment are all up, while prices are down — and expected to stay down."

Labour welcomed any signs of improvement in manufacturing, but Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "It would be premature to take this slight increase in confidence as unmitigated good news because the survey makes clear two more worrying indicators: the percentage of firms planning to invest in capacity expansion has fallen, and jobs in manufacturing are being lost at their fastest rate for two years."

CBI leaders said that strengthening retail sales suggested the possible emergence of a "feel-better" factor, which has been "conspicuously absent" so far in the recovery, but warned that there was still a gap between this and the reappearance of the full "feel-good" factor.

The CBI said that the survey indicated a "very difficult background" for any moves towards lower taxes, insisting that tax cuts in the Budget would have to be matched by reductions in spending.

Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economic adviser, said that while the survey showed a slip back into recession in manufacturing had been avoided, its findings "would strengthen the case for a cautious Budget".

On interest rates, the CBI said that based on the survey's findings there was no case for rates to be cut since manufacturing was improving — but no case for them to be raised either since there were still no inflationary pressures coming from industry.

The CBI said that in the past four months total new orders rose at the highest rate since July 1995, mainly because of a modest increase in business from abroad. But domestic orders were virtually flat, although demand for consumer goods increased more markedly on the back of strengthening high street sales.

But it gave warning against over-optimism and cautioned that firms were still threatened by the uncertain outlook for key European export markets, and that output might be held back by a continued backlog of unsold stocks.

Ray Nethercott, whose £50,000 stake in the Allied Carpets buyout, five years ago, was worth £3.5 million yesterday after the company's flotation

Shares in Allied Carpets off to a premium start

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Allied Carpets romped to a 19p premium on their first day of trading, closing at 234p.

For 160 Allied Carpets employees who invested at the height of the recession, five years ago, when Ray Nethercott, managing director, led a management buyout from Lowndes Queensway, their investments have risen 75-fold. A £5,000 investment then was worth £400,000 last night. Mr Nethercott borrowed £50,000 to put in the business, and that investment was worth £3.2 million at yesterday's flotation price, rising to £3.5 million.

A total of 500 staff now hold nearly 11 per cent of the company, with the average stake worth nearly £42,500.

Allied Carpets came to market at a big discount to the rival Carpetright. Concerned by recent difficulties of new issues such as Jarvis Hotels and British Energy, the company priced its shares at the low end of its 205p-to-235p indicated range.

Carpetright shares also shot ahead, ending 23p up, at 547p, after an upbeat report on trading from Lord Harris, chairman and chief executive. He reported sales up 33 per cent in the first 12 weeks of this financial year. However, analysts said that much of the growth was from new Carpetright stores, and suggested that like-for-like sales growth was probably in single figures and in line with sales of other household goods.

Rivalry between Allied Carpets and Carpetright is set to become more acute. John Richards, retail analyst with NatWest Markets, said that the two may find it increasingly hard to grab market share from independent retailers, whom customers often favour for their personal service.

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BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3708.4	(+27.1)
Yield	4.08%	
FT-SE A All share	1839.43	(+10.28)
Nikkei	21163.89	(+158.06)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5421.27	(+30.33)*
S&P Composite	635.55	(+1.78)*
Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	87[illegible]*	(87[illegible])
Yield	7.02%*	(7.01%)
3-mth Interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	106[illegible]	(106[illegible])
New York:		
$	1.5517*	(1.5515)
London:		
$	1.5509	(1.5499)
DM	2.3104	(2.3035)
FFr	7.8200	(7.7969)
SFr	1.8809	(1.8738)
Yen	167.42	(166.91)
£ Index	84.9	(84.7)
London:		
DM	1.4900*	(1.4854)
FFr	5.0455*	(5.0240)
SFr	1.2136*	(1.2070)
Yen	108.05*	(107.45)
$ Index	96.2	(95.9)
Tokyo close Yen 107.38		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	$18.90	($18.80)
London close	$384.35	($384.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Regulators

The National Audit Office raised a number of questions over regulators of the electricity, gas, water and telecommunications industries. The NAO asked whether regulators could face more public scrutiny and questioned whether the regulators' working methods should be more transparent. The NAO's concerns will be examined by MPs later this year. **Page 26**

Double digit

SmithKline Beecham is on track to report double-digit growth this year as sales of new drugs in the second quarter more than offset the decline of older products. **Page 27, Tempus 28**

Mersey Docks regains contract lost in strike

By Carl Mortished

MERSEY DOCKS and Harbour Company has secured the return of Atlantic Container Lines, the American shipping company that quit the Port of Liverpool last month after pressure from US dockworkers acting in sympathy with strikers in the United Kingdom.

However, Mersey Docks is unlikely to reinstate an £8 million payment offered to strikers, worth about £25,000 per employee, that was withdrawn when ACL originally pulled out.

ACL confirmed yesterday that it would be resuming its twice weekly service from New York and Baltimore to Liverpool; the shipping company transferred the business to Thamesport after threats that its vessels would be blacked in US ports. A Mersey Docks spokesman said an ACL vessel was expected to unload a cargo in Liverpool today.

Shares in Mersey Docks rose 10 per cent to 383p on news that ACL, which accounted for some £12 milllion in revenue, was returning to the port.

Mersey Docks sacked 80 workers when the American shipowner pulled out and the port operator cancelled its £8 million settlement to 329 strikers who were dismissed last year. The February offer, worth about £25,000 per man, was rejected in a mass meeting. Since the dismissals, the company has hired other staff and it claims productivity improvements.

The Liverpool strikers recently mounted a protest in the Port of Montreal by occupying a crane in a failed attempt to influence CAST, another customer of Mersey Docks

ACL's resumption of its service is the second time that the shipping line has quit the port and returned after action by strikers.

Mersey Docks last month launched court proceedings against the International Longshoreman's Association of America alleging that the union unlawfully caused Atlantic Container Lines to break its contract.

The docks dispute originated when 329 Mersey Docks employees joined a picket line in sympathy with 80 workers sacked from a separate stevedoring company who were demanding employment with Mersey Docks.

Pennington, page 27

Northern Rock's float fees at £2m

By Sara McConnell

NORTHERN ROCK Building Society, which yesterday appointed Hoare Govett as stockbroker for its proposed conversion to a bank in the autumn of 1997, said that it has already spent £2 million on work for the conversion, mainly on advisers' fees.

Price Waterhouse and JP Morgan are already advising the society. Members will be balloted next spring on conversion and the setting up of a charitable foundation, to be funded by a proportion of the society's pre-tax profits.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 were 16 per cent up on last year, at £86 million. Gross mortgage lending rose by 47 per cent, to £1.6 billion, from £1.08 billion. Net lending was up 77 per cent, at £1.15 billion.

Halifax cuts 1,200 head office jobs

By Robert Miller

THE Halifax Building Society, which is preparing for flotation, is to shed 1,200 head office jobs. The society, which is seeking improvements in efficiency after its merger with the Leeds Permanent last year, also said it expected to create 1,000 jobs in general insurance over the next 18 months.

The cuts, however, were attacked by the Independent Union of Halifax Staff, which accused the Halifax of "camouflaging" the effect of the job losses. Ged Nichols, general secretary of the Halifax union, which earlier this month became affiliated to the TUC, said: "Job losses were to be expected after the merger with the Leeds Permanent Building Society last year.

"However, the prospect that over the next 18 months 1,000 new jobs may be created within general insurance activities and Halifax Direct should not be confused with those who are going to lose their posts now. We have secured the promise that there will be no compulsory redundancies and improved early retirement terms. Even so, there are a lot of worried people out there tonight."

Halifax said: "The aim has been to cut out unnecessary cost and establish the right level of support for future growth and development."

The society said that, over the next 18 months, 1,200 jobs "will be phased out". It added: "The net position is that by the end of 1997 there will be about 200 fewer jobs in the head office locations."

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City Diary, page 29

3/2

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Stagecoach ready to bid for rest of rail franchises

By Fraser Nelson

STAGECOACH, Britain's biggest private bus operator, said yesterday it will bid for all 12 of Britain's remaining rail franchises.

Announcing record pre-tax profits up 34 per cent at £43.6 million for the year to April 30, Stagecoach, where Ann Gloag is managing director, said it was on the shortlist for the Cardiff Valley and south-east England franchises, and aimed to have a railway portfolio with a turnover between £400 million and £500 million.

The group already owns South West Railways, which has an annualised turnover of £260 million.

Brian Souter, executive chairman, said the decision to go for all of the franchises was primarily a safety measure. "If you bid for them all, you are more likely to pick one up," he said.

Passenger volumes on South West Railways increased 7 per cent, which Mr Souter said was helped by the group's decision to keep fare increases below inflation. More trains have been planned for the route in winter.

Its bus division increased passenger volume by 1 per cent, despite a national trend away from bus travel. The group is also to expand its articulated bus service across Britain. At present, two of its 60-foot, 72-seat buses run between Glasgow and Anstruther. It has ordered ten more, to service routes through Lanakshire, Blackpool and Grimsby, among others.

Turnover rose by 48 per cent to £501 million, helped by a £24.4 million contribution from its four bus acquisitions. The group gained a £15 million profit from selling its 22 per cent stake in Strathclyde Buses, lifting cash assets from £8.44 million to £70.8 million. Gearing fell from 140 per cent to 110 per cent.

The final dividend is 4.6p, bringing the total for the year to 6.7p (5.3p). Earnings per share rose to 20.3p compared with 16.0p.

Tempus, page 28

Ann Gloag of Stagecoach, which announced record profits up 34 per cent at £43.6 million, sees a window of opportunity for more bids

National Audit Office urges shake-up of utility regulators

By Christine Buckley

THE industry regulators for electricity, gas, water and telecoms yesterday came under further pressure after the National Audit Office, the public sector watchdog, threw into question key aspects of their operations.

The audit office's concerns will be examined by MPs this year, after another parliamentary inquiry into regulators' activities. The two investigations are poised to be the biggest public examination of regulated industries.

The NAO has asked whether the whole of the regulatory structure should be overhauled to create a board of watchdogs rather than individual autonomies.

The audit office asks if the regulators could be opened to greater public scrutiny to increase their accountability. It questions whether more hearings should be held in public and whether the regulators' working methods should be more transparent. It also says that the balance the regulators are striking between customers and companies' finances should be examined.

In some of the hardest hitting language used by the organisation, which is responsible for checking the accounts of government departments as well as other public sector bodies, questions have been drafted for consideration by the Public Accounts Committee.

The NAO propositions follow swiftly the announcement by the Trade and Industry Select Committee that it is to mount an inquiry into utility regulators. Debate by the Public Accounts Committee on the NAO report is scheduled for December, by which time the Trade and Industry Select Committee will have started hearing evidence from the electricity and gas regulators.

Questions from the NAO into a large range of the regulators' operations come in a comprehensive report to which all four watchdogs have submitted detailed responses.

Along with issues of accountability, MPs will discuss whether the RPI price cap formula could be improved. The RPI-X formula was devised by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, and has been a cornerstone of the regulation of all privatised industries. However, Professor Littlechild recently questioned its use in draft consultations for a new price round for the National Grid, the electricity transmission business.

The Public Accounts Committee will also question how effective regulators have been in communicating their decisions and action.

Power politics, page 29

BA link to be judged on EU rules

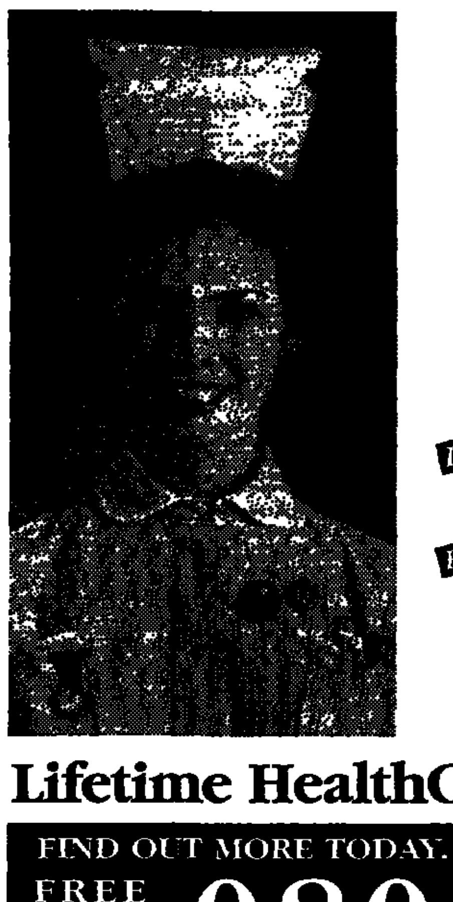
By Jon Ashworth

THE trade department has acted to bring UK competition rules in line with Brussels, before a potential monopolies inquiry into the proposed alliance between BA and American Airlines. The DTI said the move would reduce risk of discrepancies arising from two parallel investigations.

The European Commission announced last month that it would look into the proposed link-up as part of a wider study of airline alliances. The Office of Fair Trading is considering whether to refer BA-AA to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for full investigation.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said he was introducing regulations to enable UK authorities to study the proposed alliance under EU competition rules. An inquiry would fall under Article 88 of the EC Treaty. Mr Lang said the move would increase the chance of reaching an early decision with maximum legal certainty.

BA welcomed the move as a "positive step", and hoped it would lead to the process speeding up. A spokesman said: "We are quite prepared to liaise with any competent competition authority which wants to look at what we are proposing with American Airlines, because are confident we can convince them of the substantial consumer advantages in terms of lower fares and better service."



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AEAT to be floated by end of year

By Alasdair Murray

THE Government yesterday confirmed that AEA Technology, the science and engineering company, would be privatised by the end of the year in a flotation expected to value the company at about £200 million.

AEAT was formerly part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and speculation had mounted recently that the Government might postpone a float to avoid the embarrassment that followed the British Energy stock market launch. But the autumn will be the last opportunity to push through the float before the next election.

About half of AEAT's work is in the nuclear sector, although it also provides services to the oil, gas and utility industries. Sir Anthony Cleaver, the chairman, has been pushing for a flotation to allow the company to undertake more private sector and international work.

In the year to the end of March 1995, the company made a profit of £7.4 million on turnover of £257 million. The Government said yesterday that it expected to see a substantial improvement in profits for 1996.

Southern Water gets new chief

By Christine Buckley

SCOTTISHPOWER has begun its shake-out at Southern Water, yesterday installing as chief executive the man who took charge of reshaping Manweb.

Mike Kinski will move to Southern Water after less than a year heading Manweb, which ScottishPower bought last summer as the first move in its strategy of becoming a national multi-utility. William Courtney, 71, the present executive chairman of the water company, is expected to retire soon. His contract expires in December and he has indicated a willingness to leave the company.

Further boardroom moves are expected by the middle of next month as ScottishPower conducts a full review of the business. Attention will focus on the role of Martin Webster, currently managing director of the water company.

Speculation will also surround the likely impact on general staffing levels from the takeover. ScottishPower has emphasised that there will be no compulsory redundancies although it has said that it expects efficiencies to be made on duplicated roles between the two companies.

Full-year profits forecast downgraded

Euro Disney growth slows

By Jon Ashworth

DIFFICULTIES in the French leisure market are catching up with Euro Disney, operator of Disneyland Paris, which saw operating revenues show only a modest increase in the third quarter. Revenues rose 4.5 per cent to Fr1.4 million in the three months to June 30, compared with a rise of 8.8 per cent in the previous quarter. First-quarter revenues grew by 17 per cent, boosted by lower entrance fees and the launch of Space Mountain, the rollercoaster attraction.

The shares fell 9p to 162p. Analysts blamed the strong franc and weak French consumer spending, and said Euro Disney would find it heavy going this year. The three months to September 30 are traditionally the hardest in which to make money, since hotels operate near capacity, and margins are squeezed.

Paribas Capital Markets yesterday downgraded its full-year forecast for Euro Disney from Fr238 million to Fr189 million. Costs are rising as the interest holiday negotiated with the banks gradually unwinds. Royalties and management fees are due to kick in again in fiscal 1999.

Euro Disney remained upbeat, saying it had made good progress in a difficult market. Hotels in Paris are suffering a slump in bookings. Occupancy at Disneyland Paris hotels rose from about 55 per cent in 1993 to 68.5 per cent in 1995. Growth in revenues and tight cost control boosted third-quarter income before exceptional items to Fr146 million, compared with Fr91 million in the same period last year. Net profits slipped from Fr170 million to Fr147 million, in the absence of an exceptional gain of Fr79 million relating to the repurchase of convertible bonds.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Complex planned for Canary Wharf

PLANS for new homes, a hotel and shops complex at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands were outlined yesterday. The £300 million development of the 11-acre site is the result of a joint venture between Hotel Properties, which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange and which will hold a 70 per cent stake, and Canary Wharf, which will hold the rest.

Ong Beng Seng, managing director of Hotel Properties, said: "This is a unique opportunity to acquire an interest in the premiere riverside development in London." Canary Wharf is owned by an international consortium led by Paul Reichmann and including Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Mr Reichmann: "Our partnership with Hotel Properties will enable us to realise our vision of a comprehensive mixed use development, complete with all the services and amenities that make up such a locality. This is a major venture and we are confident it will also bring opportunities and employment for local people."

Signet denies sale deal

SIGNET, the former Ratners jewellery group, yesterday denied reports that it has agreed the sale of its UK businesses to Apax Partners, the venture capital group. Signet has signalled its intention to sell the UK businesses — Ernest Jones and H Samuel — and talks with Apax Partners are understood to be at an advanced stage. A sale for about £280 million is expected, with the proceeds to used to cut debts. Apax is also expected to buy a large stake in Goldsmiths and then perhaps merge it with Ernest Jones or H Samuel. Signet shares closed 1½p up at 24½p.

Pennington, page 27

Southend to Hampton

SOUTHEND PROPERTIES, the troubled housing firm, is to change its name to Hampton Trust as part of moves designed to pull itself back to recovery. In the year to March 31, the group recorded losses of £9.89 million, against pre-tax profits of £2 million the year before. But after restructuring, rental income edged ahead to £19.5 million (£17.7 million). After a property portfolio revaluation, the group found it was £23 million below its original estimates at £238 million. There was no final dividend, leaving the year's total at 0.88p (2.52p). Losses ran to 9.91p per share, against earnings of 1p last time.

Lease contracts call

ALL rights and financial obligations under lease contracts should be recognised in company accounts, says a paper published by Warren McGregor, of the Australian Accounting Research Foundation. There is a blurred difference between capital-only finance leases, which generally are accounted for, and operating leases, which are not. Joint sponsors of the paper include the International Accounting Standards Committee, the UK's Accounting Standards Board and standard-setters from America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The ASB invites comments.

Boost for Stakis

STAKIS, the hotels and leisure group, yesterday reported a strong rise in room rates and occupancy levels throughout its hotels during the third quarter of this year. But the improvement failed to excite the City and shares fell 1p to close at 108p. Occupancy rates increased 3.6 percentage points to 78.6 per cent, while the average room rate rose from £44.46 to £46.85 a night. The casino division also showed an improvement with cash spent for the nine months rising nearly 4 per cent to £203 million as attendances increased 10 per cent to 1.6 million.

Mitie advances 38%

MITIE GROUP, the provider of services to building owners and occupiers, achieved a 38 per cent increase in profits to £6.3 million in the year to the end of March. Earnings improved to 16.2p a share from 12.2p, an increase of 33 per cent. A final dividend of 2.2p a share lifts the total by 33 per cent to 4p. Turnover of £161 million was 29 per cent higher than in the previous year. David Telling, chairman, said trading in the first three months of the current year had been satisfactory.

Golden Wonder pledge

GOLDEN WONDER has assured John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, that it will not maintain minimum resale prices on its goods. The Office of Fair Trading requested assurances after a complaint by a distributor of its crisps and snack foods. The complainant had entered into a contract with Golden Wonder which stipulated that payment of bonuses to dealers depended on them not re-selling goods below specified prices. This was a breach of the Resale Prices Act 1976, which outlawed resale price maintenance, said the OFT.

Go-ahead for oilfield

GOVERNMENT consent for development of the Curlew oil and gasfield in the central North Sea has been granted to Shell UK Exploration and Production, the operator. Approval was announced yesterday by Richard Page, the Energy Minister. A floating production and storage vessel will be used to develop the field, where recoverable reserves are put at 71 million barrels of oil and 244 billion cubic feet of gas. Its life is estimated at eight years. The first oil is expected to be produced in autumn next year.

Winchester loss grows

WINCHESTER MULTIMEDIA, an entertainment company holding rights to films, television programmes and music, had a pre-tax loss of £1.9 million, or 18.7p a share, in the year to March 31, against a loss of £356,000, or 4.5p a share, in the previous year. Turnover rose twelve-fold to £3.1 million. Winchester said that the deeper loss was due to amortisation costs of *Rainbow*, its first feature film, and the write-off of its investment in ECP, publisher of *Ikon* magazine. It said it has high hopes for *Rainbow*, to be released in the UK on Friday.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	17.17	15.67
Belgium Fr	50.37	46.07
Canada $	2.231	2.071
Cyprus Cyp£	0.746	0.691
Denmark Kr	9.44	8.64
Finland Mkk	7.57	6.92
France Fr	8.19	7.54
Germany Dm	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	380	355
Hong Kong $	12.64	11.64
Iceland	113	93
Ireland Pt	1.01	0.99
Israel Shk	5.30	4.65
Italy Lira	2449	2294
Japan Yen	180.50	164.50
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.795	2.505
New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.45	9.65
Portugal Esc	248.00	[illegible]
S Africa Rd	7.46	[illegible]
Spain Pta	201.50	188.50
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.05
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	132770	124770
USA $	1.648	1.518

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Decision day for Bank of Scotland bidders ☐ Signet question is one of timing ☐ More building society jobs at risk

Cold shoulder repaid with interest

☐ PERHAPS it's the heat. Perhaps the City, or that portion of it not already on holiday, has been too fixated on the tennis, or the golf, or the Olympics. But the sale of a third of the Bank of Scotland has created precious little enthusiasm.

Or perhaps the institutions behind the biggest secondary issue in five years are having trouble whipping up enthusiasm among those shareholders who had previously been given the cold shoulder when they tried to do some basic research on their investment.

Bank of Scotland, which, with the Royal Bank of Scotland, has the retail market pretty well stitched up north of the border, has since 1985 been 32 per cent owned by Standard Life, the ultimate protective shareholder. That has bred a degree of contentment and complacency unusual even in a member of the Scottish financial mafia.

But the bank has become a victim of its own success. The value of Standard Life's stake grew sixfold, to the point where it represented almost 7 per cent of the UK portfolio. Standard Life had to get out, on any normal reading of its fiduciary duties — and to the fury of the bank. Ideally, the stake would have been sold to provide a platform to a potential bidder, and hence at a premium to the market value. But no bidder could be found.

The insurer has had to fall back on a secondary issue, which means the shares will go to the market at a discount to their current value. This evening institutions who have bid for stock should learn what the price is and how much they will get. Such secondary issues should be easy to price, because there is already a quoted value for the shares — except that they have tended not to work out thus. The second sale of Wellcome shares in 1991 and of the two generators last year had their difficulties.

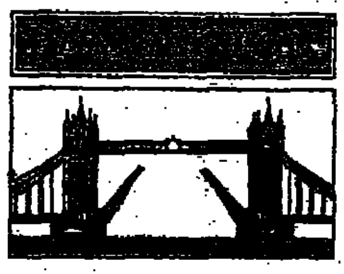
Most of the bids so far have come in between 215p and 225p, if you believe the bidders. Some of the big institutions have indicated that they will be deciding on their tenders today. Bank of Scotland shares closed at 230½p last night, and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the people who brought you British Energy, say there is little point in their bidding lower than the high 220s.

Time, and the markets, will tell. What is clear is that the price has been held back by the issue. The shares were 245p when the sale was announced, and having fallen with the stock market's 80-point mini-collapse last week they have not shared in the subsequent recovery. Even sceptical analysts put a fair value of 250p on the shares.

Their scepticism comes because Bank of Scotland's way out of the Scottish box it is locked into — the bank has a low profile 4 per cent of the market in England — has perforce been into low margin areas such as corporate lending and mortgages. As a result, in the various indices the City uses to measure banks, the Bank of Scotland lags sadly behind its rivals.

All that glisters . . .

☐ THE sale of the Ernest Jones and H Samuel chains of jewellers by their owner Signet, *né* Ratners, is one of those stories waiting to happen this summer, like the Bass purchase of Carlsberg Tetley that may or may not once again be imminent. The only question is the timing of the deal.



So what does one make of a report in the *Financial Times* that a purchase is agreed? It prompted an immediate denial from Signet, forced on the company by the Stock Exchange. Signet, rather like Bass as it happens, has always adopted the dignified approach that if anything is imminent the appropriate announcement will be made. Until then speculation is free, but it will remain unanswered.

The other sides to the deal, Jurek Piasecki at Goldsmiths Group, Signet's main high street rival in the jewellery trade, and Apax Partners, the venture capital group, were lying low yesterday. The deal, when it comes, will involve Apax buying the two chains for anything up to £280 million and then merging one or both with Goldsmiths, which is too small to raise the necessary cash.

Mr Piasecki, one of that breed of entrepreneurs with few doubts about their abilities, has in the past been free with his ambitions to own Ernest Jones and H Samuel — sometimes to the embarrassment of their current owner, which has had to haul back market expectations. His reticence yesterday is probably significant. Both sides are keen on a deal, but the buyer seems the keener. A report of its imminence would serve only to put pressure on the seller.

The final disposal of the two chains, for a price that wipes out most of Signet's debt, will allow the relocation of the headquarters across the Atlantic to where the rest of the business is. The last barrier will be the fate of the preference shareholders, including a group of troublemakers who have been making life difficult for the management. Assuming they can be squared with enough of the ordinary capital, Signet can then be an American-quoted, American-based business. Few on the London market will mourn its departure.

The two faces of Halifax

☐ THERE is an element of double-talk in the Halifax's proud boast to be creating 1,000 new jobs that the unions, at least, have not been slow in picking up on. A thousand new jobs may be created, but 1,200 are definitely going, a clear case of five steps forward (possibly) and then six steps back.

The announcement, of course, is aimed at a City audience that must be reassured that the Halifax is shedding staff fast. Those potential new jobs are in areas such as direct insurance that by their very nature operate with a small workforce, and highly competitive areas too where decisions to expand can easily be reversed if the market becomes too crowded.

The actual job losses are very real, coming from the existing workforce. By the time the Halifax is a bank, it intends to be as lean as the rest of them. Except that by then the banks will probably have moved on further and cut more jobs, to which the Halifax will have to respond — with more job losses.

It is too late now, but given the new freedoms made available in the Building Societies Bill to go into insurance and so on, one must wonder whether the Halifax really needs a stock market float, and all the attendant brutality merely to please the City, to achieve its aim of being the biggest provider of personal financial services.

Red flag . . . red rag

☐ THE latest from the barricades and braziers at Mersey Docks is one of those futile, self-defeating trade union sagas that should provide a frisson of nostalgia for anyone old enough to have done their homework by candlelight during the power strikes of the 1970s. The dockers were offered cash for good behaviour, but they cut up nasty anyway. So Atlantic Container Lines, an important customer, decided to go elsehere. Atlantic has changed its mind and come back. Mersey Docks, in a rather better negotiating position, is no longer offering the cash. All together now: "While cowards flinch and traitors sneer . . ."

Warning hurts Filofax shares

By Sarah Cunningham

ABOUT £32 million was yesterday wiped off the value of shares in Filofax, the personal organiser company, after it surprised the City with a warning that first-half profits were likely to fall.

The shares plunged 105p to 165p. The holdings of Filofax directors, who own about three million shares, were devalued by more than £3 million.

The company said that it had issued the warning because its largest UK customer, understood to be WH Smith, was reducing its stocks of Filofax products.

Robin Field, chief executive of Filofax, said that a drop in orders from the company's third-party distributor in Japan was also going to hit profits. Lower than expected growth in the US was also cited as a problem.

The company said that first-half profits would be "not less than £2 million", compared with £2.9 million in the same period last year. Second-half profits would be "at least" the same as the £3.7 million achieved last year, it said.

City followers immediately reduced their forecasts for full-year pre-tax profits for 1996-97 to £5.7 million from their earlier levels of more than £8 million. The company made a pre-tax profit of £6.6 million in the year ended March 30, 1996.

Filofax, which this time last year bought Topps of England, the maker of Microfile personal organisers, controls more than 80 per cent of the UK market.

Yesterday's profits warning came as a sharp contrast to the rosy picture painted by the company when it delivered its 1995-96 results a month ago. It then highlighted the potential for growth in Europe and other overseas markets.

Tempus, page 28

New drugs sales soar to boost SB profits

By Eric Reguly

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceuticals group, said it was on track to report double-digit growth this year as sales of new drugs in the second quarter more than offset the decline of older products.

The sales increase was strong enough to mask several soft spots, including falling trading profits at the clinical laboratories division, which is providing drug testing at the Atlanta Olympics, and a continued lack of earnings at Diversified Pharmaceutical Services (DPS), the US pharmaceuticals-benefit manager acquired in 1994 for $2.3 billion.

SmithKline said sales of new products reached £370 million in the quarter, up 46 per cent. Star performer was Seroxat/Paxil, the antidepressant. Sales grew 59 per cent to £171 million. Another strong performer was Relafen, the arthritis medicine, which saw sales rise 45 per cent to £75 million.

The biggest decline was registered by Tagamet, the ulcer drug, which is losing its patents. Its sales dropped 56 per cent to £56 million in the quarter. Jan Leschly, chief executive, said Tagamet's declines would ease from now on.

Overall sales in the quarter to June 30 grew 17 per cent to £1.92 billion. Pre-tax profits were up 14 per cent to £342 million. Earnings per share were 8.3p against 7.4p and an interim dividend of 4p will be paid on October 15. Comparisons with the previous dividend are not relevant because the dual-share structure was recently replaced with a single class of ordinary shares.

In the half year, pre-tax profits fell 38 per cent to £729 million on sales of £3.8 billion, up 13 per cent. The profits were down because of the gain of £512 million booked last year on the sale of the animal health business.

The profits were at the high end of analysts' forecasts and helped to push up the shares 8.5p to 696p.

Mr Leschly said that DPS is breaking even on an operating basis and will probably start contributing to earnings in the next financial year. The profit decline at clinical laboratories, meanwhile, is easing.

SmithKline, he said, plans to remain independent. A merger or takeover will not be contemplated as long as the company is experiencing strong organic growth through product launches.

Tempus, page 28

GEORGE CRANE

Kim Tan, managing director of KS Biomedix Holdings, said trials of its rheumatoid arthritis drug were making good progress. The company, which raised £3.65 million via an AIM flotation in October, lost £218,163 in the year to May 31.

Glaxo drug restricts Aids in trials

By Eric Reguly

Sykes: shares up

SHARES in Glaxo Wellcome rose yesterday after a trial showed that treatments that included Epivir, one of the company's HIV drugs, showed a marked reduction in the progression of Aids among patients.

As a result, Glaxo, which is the largest pharmaceuticals company in the world and led by Sir Richard Sykes, the deputy chairman and chief executive, has halted an international Epivir study in order to allow the patients on placebos to take the treatment. The study, which involved almost 1,900 patients across Europe, Canada, Australia and South Africa, began in the spring of last year and had been due to end next March.

The trial showed that 54 per cent fewer HIV patients treated with Epivir, whose generic name is 3TC, went on to contract Aids or die, compared with patients on the placebo. The Epivir had been administered with Retrovir, also known as AZT, an anti-HIV drug that is also made by Glaxo.

The International Aids Conference in Vancouver early this month renewed hope that the use of so-called combination treatments can reduce Aids virus levels. In such treatments, Epivir and Retrovir are combined with a so-called protease inhibitor, which blocks one of the enzymes essential for the virus to replicate.

Epivir was licensed to Glaxo in 1990 and has received regulatory approval in the US, but not in Europe.

Glaxo shares closed yesterday at 911½p, up 20½p.

Hinchliffe acts to oust receivers from company

By Jason Nissé

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, the controversial Sheffield businessman, is attempting to wrestle control of what is left of his collapsed Facia empire from KPMG, the receivers.

Mr Hinchliffe has asked Buchler Phillips, the accountant, to step in as liquidators of Facia, which collapsed eight weeks ago with debts of over £10 million, and claims he can use his powers as a director to place the company into voluntary liquidation. He said that, as KPMG has sold all the Facia businesses — which included Red or Dead, Oakland and Sock Shop, the retail chains — and can pay off the banks and other secured creditors, its work was done.

Tony Thompson, who leads the KPMG team, said it is resisting the move as he says there is more to do. High on his agenda is recovering a £2.5 million interest-free loan made by Facia to Colibri and French & Scott, companies controlled by Mr Hinchliffe.

Mr Thompson is considering legal action to recover that and other debts owed by companies controlled by Mr Hinchliffe which could run to more than £5 million.

Mr Hinchliffe has yet to provide a statement of affairs, something he was required to do under law one month ago. He has asked Baker Tilly, the accountant, to work on the report, but wants KPMG to pay for it. The two accountancy firms are currently arguing over whether KPMG should pay — and how much.

This is not the only area of dispute between KPMG and Mr Hinchliffe, who next week faces proceedings to have him disqualified as a director on an unrelated case. Allied Industrial Estates, a company owned by Mr Hinchliffe, evicted KPMG from Facia's headquarters this month, claiming £189,000 in back rent. KPMG is also investigating £1 million of payments to his companies described as finder's fees for Facia deals.

Lotus chief fires board after clash

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

ROMANO ARTIOLI, controversial chairman of Lotus, yesterday fired his board and installed himself in the driving seat of one of Britain's most famous carmakers.

THe four directors, plus Martin Brostoff, the company secretary, paid the penalty for criticising Mr Artioli for asking too much money for Lotus, which he has been promising to sell for over a year.

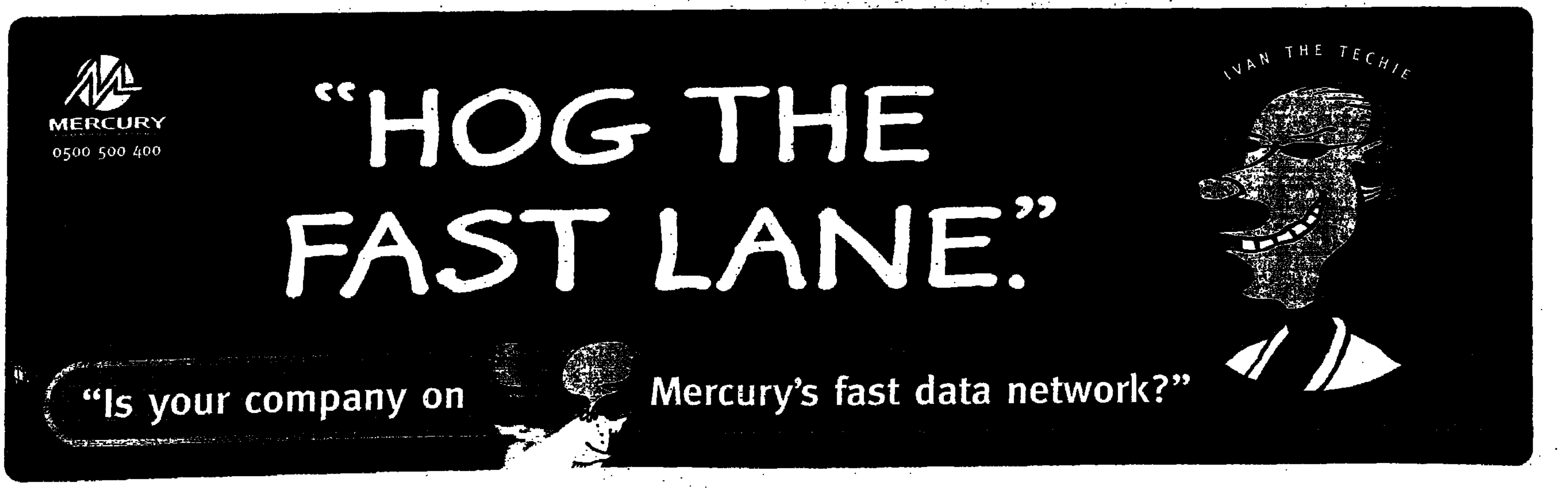
Estimates range as high as £70 million for a business that will make only about 1,000 cars next year but has a renowned engineering division.

The directors are believed to have been pushing Mr Artioli to drop the price to pave the way for a sale which they wanted quickly to secure the future of the business. The row culminated in a heated meeting last week in which the directors threatened to put the business into receivership, unless Mr Artioli ended the uncertainty.

But the Italian chairman answered yesterday by having the five executives, who were not being named last night but are thought to include Neeraj Kupur, the acting managing director, escorted from Lotus's headquarters at Hethel, near Norwich.

Lawyers went to the company and executives called in to be told they were being "removed".

Security men then walked the directors past astonished staff to the factory gates. Later, the 1,100 staff were handed a message from Mr Artioli, who bought Lotus from General Motors three years ago for £25 million, saying the directors had been removed over "a fundamental disagreement".



STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Bank of Scotland hovers just above year's low

British Steel rose 4½p to 172p before today's annual meeting

BANK of Scotland was a whisker above its low for the year amid growing speculation in the City that the sale of the bulk of Standard Life's 32 per cent would flop.

Shares in **Bank of Scotland** finished 1½p easier at 230½p compared with the year's low of 230p, but they have fallen from 312p since the start of the year. Rival brokers claim BZW is struggling with the book-building exercise for 351 million shares estimated to be worth £807 million. Standard Life has not said how many of these shares it intends to sell, but brokers say it may choose to keep about 2 per cent of the company. Standard Life now owns 30 per cent of the bank.

BZW countered last night by claiming further demand for the shares, with bids pitched in the high 220s area. The book-building should be completed by later today, with news of pricing and allocations expected tomorrow. City speculators say Standard Life will be lucky if the price is pitched at 225p.

The rest of the equity market bounced back, helped by a positive overnight performance on Wall Street and early opening gains for the Dow Jones industrial average. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best of the day, cheered by a positive CBI survey. It finished 27.1 higher at 3,708.4 as a total of 605 million shares change hands.

City investors have become excited by news that **Glaxo Wellcome** is making headway in the battle against Aids. The shares rose 20½p to 911½p as it emerged that tests on Epivir, its Aids treatement, had been halted after breaching the recognised success threshold.

Tests concluded that about 54 per cent of sufferers gained some relief compared with a sample of those on a placebo. HIV sufferers who took part in the study will now receive a *combination of Epivir and* Retrovir, the group's other Aids treatment.

A strong rise in sales of pharmaceuticals helped **SmithKline Beecham** to raise first-half pre-tax profits by £42 million to £342 million. The shares responded with a rise of 8½p of 696p.

British Steel rose 4½p to 172p before today's annual meeting. Brokers say the group should have some encouraging words for shareholders. **Railtrack** responded positively to news of management changes with a rise of 6p at 214½p, but there was little support for **British Energy**, unchanged at 97p, which continues to trade at a discount to the 100p partly paid offer price.

Mersey Docks stood out with a leap of 36p at 383p after a change of heart by its biggest customer, Atlantic Container Line. It is to return to the Port of Liverpool after a month's absence. ACL had switched its service to Kent.

HSBC also advanced 25½p to £10.68 as at least two brokers began pushing the shares. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, has added HSBC to its buy list, while Merrill Lynch has upgraded its profit numbers. It has lifted its estimate for the current year from £3.9 billion to £4.26 billion and, for next time round, from £4.2 billion to £4.55 billion.

Carpetright, the high-flying carpet retailer headed by Lord Harris, responded to news of strong sales growth with a rise of 23p at 547p. In the first 12 weeks of the current financial year, sales were a 33 per cent ahead on the corresponding period last year. Lord Harris told the annual meeting that with the housing market and economy improving the group market share' had grown to somewhere in the region of 14 per cent.

His comments coincided with the first day of trading in **Allied Carpets**, a rival. The shares were piling on the premium in early trading as institutions attempted to increase their weighting after being scaled down during the initial placing. Priced at 215p, the shares opened at 228p and climbed to a peak of 234p where they closed with a premium of 19p as more than nine million shares were traded.

Also making its public debut was **Selector**, the Israeli company specialising in drinks dispensing equipment. The shares, placed at 66p on the Alternative Investment Market, opened at 70p and traded quietly for the rest of the session, maintaining a premium of 4p.

But **Therapeutic Antibodies** failed to achieve a premium in first-time dealings after a placing at 500p. The price opened at 498p and slipped to a low for the day of 496p, before rallying to close at 509p, a discount of 16p.

The decision not to launch a counter-bid for Docks de France, the French retailer, enabled **Tesco**, the supermarket group, to repair some of the recent damage to its price with an increase of 8p to 286p.

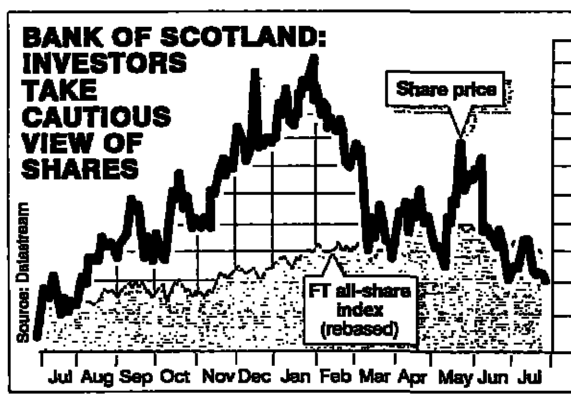
BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, advanced 14p to 294p excited by the news that Bertlesmann and Kirch, the German media groups, were in talks. Earlier this month, BSkyB and Kirch agreed to provide a digital television system for the German market.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** News that the latest auction had been heavily oversubscribed provided only temporary support to the rest of the bond market. The £2 billion of Treasury 8 per cent with a dual maturity date 2000/03 was covered 4.81 times. It enabled prices in the rest of the market to pick up after a slow start, but a bullish survey from the CBI saw those gains quickly curtailed.

In the futures pit, the *September series of the long gilt* finished £⅛ easier at £106¹⁹⁄₃₂ as the number of contracts completed doubled to 31,000. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished five ticks lower at £97²³⁄₃₂, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased £¹⁄₁₆ to £103.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Buy programs and earnings-driven strength in American Express and Allied-Signal kept the Dow Jones industrial average higher in early trading. At midday, the the index was up 30.33 points to 5,421.27.

Kingfisher, the Woolworth, Comet and B&Q retailer, rose 12p to 620p after a profit upgrade from BZW. Kingfisher has had a series of briefings with brokers ahead of its closed season. BZW has raised its forecast for the year by £10 million to £355 million. It has pencilled in a figure of £390 million for next year.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5421.27 (+30.33)
S&P Composite	635.55 (+1.78)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21163.69 (+158.06)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10865.31 (+67.02)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	525.41 (-0.21)
Sydney:	
AO	2136.0 (-16.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2475.07 (-7.33)
Singapore:	
Straits	2169.47 (-4.59)
Brussels:	
General	9240.07 (-7.33)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1982.23 (+21.90)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	755.50 (-0.70)
London:	
FT 30	2713.4 (+16.7)
FT 100	3708.4 (+27.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	4236.9 (+5.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1858.8 (+11.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1615.92 (-2.13)
FT A All-Share	1839.43 (+10.28)
FT Non Financials	1950.62 (+10.27)
FT Fixed Interest	112.83 (-0.09)
FT Govt Secs	92.77 (-0.18)
Bargains	25968
SEAQ Volume	605.7m
USM (Datastrm)	204.85 (-1.42)
US$	1.5511 (-0.0013)
German Mark	2.3108 (+0.0075)
Exchange Index	84.9 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2080
£:SDR	1.0626
RPI	153.0 Jun (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	152.6 Jun (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Alizyme	48	- 3
Allied Carpets	234	...
Alumax	1918	- 18
BATM Advd Cms	128	...
Belhaven Brewery	199	...
British Energy (100)	97	...
Drings of Bath	4	...
Electronic Retail	148	...
Fayrewood	51	...
Hat Pin	57	- 5
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97	...
Independent Brit Hl	78	...
Life Numbers	15	...
Life Numbers Wts	5	...
Lotteryking Wts	1½	...
NECA	18	...
Pace Micro Tec (172)	180	+ 1
Pordum Foods Wts	1¼	...
Quintain Ests & Dev	114	...
Selector	70	...
Templeton Cntrl	96	...
Therap'tic Anti	509	...
UNO	161	+ 14

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cowie n/p (355)	15	+ 2
Greene Kng n/p (545)	49	- 2
Kays Food n/p (2)	½	...
Old English n/p (100)	16	...
Sema Gp n/p (595)	126	+ 1
Syndicate Tst n/p (110)	2	...
Tinsley Rbr n/p (130)	1½	...
TransTec n/p (103)	10	...
Tullow Oil n/p (80)	7½	- 1
Vardy n/p (300)	5	- 3

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Mersey Docks	383p (+36p)
Shield Diag	144p (+13p)
Micro Focus	770p (+60p)
Pegasus	298p (+23p)
Carpetright	547p (+23p)
PizzaExpress	372p (+14p)
FALLS:	
Filofax	165p (-105p)
J & J Dyson	188p (-12p)
Sentry Farm	198p (-12p)
CMG	605p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

The next stage

HAVING grabbed 17 per cent of the UK bus market, the buccaneering bosses of Stagecoach are feeling a bit lukewarm about a market that is maturing. Owners of bus companies want high prices for their local franchise, which rather defeats the acquisition-driven strategy of Stagecoach. Also on the horizon is a big question mark from the Labour Party. It promises more regulation to end the chaos of "bus wars" on the high streets but, typically, the bosses of new Labour are vague on the details.

Stagecoach should not be overly concerned about buses but should be worried about trains. If order and more structure is what Labour wants, it is likely to favour the big companies over the smaller fry, the latter being less able to afford the quality of service and reliability demanded by a regulator. The market is a greater impediment to Stagecoach — high prices now preclude big acquisition gains. The immediate challenge is to deliver the promised margin gains at South West Trains and secure further train franchises.

In the first few months of ownership, the business scraped into profit on the back of a 7 per cent surge in passenger volumes. Stagecoach could make £1 million from SWT in the current year and estimates of a 13 per cent reduction in variable costs suggest Stagecoach could be generating profits of £12 million by April 1998. That depends on achieving big reductions in staff, a factor of which the rail unions will be acutely aware. Large profits from rail franchises will also irritate the Labour Party. In the short term, Stagecoach has little interest in squeezing the last drop out of South West Trains.

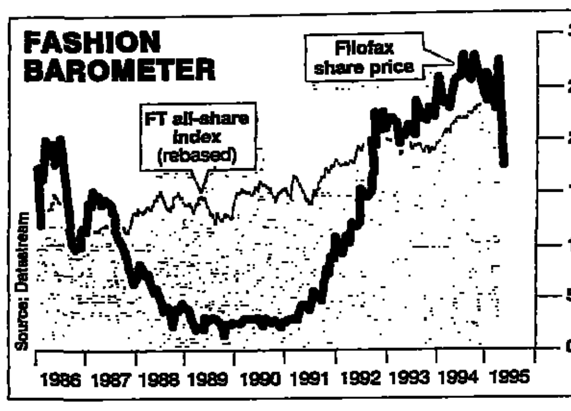
Filofax

ALMOST a decade after its flotation, the Filofax share price has again been hit by news of growth deferred. There is a curious symmetry to the collapse and recovery of the company. It may be fanciful to muse that a profit warning at Filofax presages a 1987-style market crash but certain worries about the company recur.

A month ago Filofax vibrated with good feeling only to warn yesterday about sluggish markets and de-stocking by UK and Japanese retailers. This will hurt first-half profits and reduce the full-year result to about £5.7 million, well below forecasts of £8.2 million.

Protestations from Filofax that it knew nothing of the trading problems in June must be believed but only serve to increase the impression that the business is too seasonal and too volatile to be worthy of a public quotation. A business that earns most of its living in the run-up to Christmas must live with big swings in stocks and the problems of its major customer, WH Smith, had been well publicised.

That said, yesterday's sell off looks exaggerated and suggests that some shareholders have simply lost patience. Once the de-stocking cycle has run its course, profits should recover but there is a long-term caveat. Electronic organisers, which the company dismisses as a work gadget, are fast overtaking Filofax as the gift of choice for the executive who has everything. Filofax must live and die with fashion.



Pharmaceuticals

PHARMACEUTICAL companies have to throw dice in their research labs but they can live with one certainty: government cut-backs and competition will keep a lid on drug prices in North America and Europe, their larget markets. The trend, in fact, is for price deflation. Vote-hungry politicians find it convenient to blame the drug companies for spiralling health costs.

There are two solutions to the problem. One is to exploit *markets outside North America* and Europe; the other is to increase R&D spending in an effort to launch more new products. New drugs command high prices because their patents make them immune to generic copies.

Investors looking for long-term growth should, therefore, choose companies with the promising new product portfolios. In this category several companies stand out: one third of SmithKline Beecham's products have been introduced since its merger in 1990. Glaxo Wellcome is cheaper, but it is too early to tell how well it will be able to manage the decline of Zantac. But the leader is Pfizer of America which shows no signs of slowing down with sales growth of 25 per cent last year and 11 per cent in the second quarter on the back of new drugs. The shares, though, are near their high for the year. Investors should wait for them to come off the boil.

Carpetright

BLINK and Carpetright will have increased the pace of its store opening programme by another notch. They would have you believe otherwise but Carpetright and its rival, the recently floated Allied Carpets are glaring at each other across the concrete wastes of the edge-of-town retail parks.

So far, the carpet barons have contented themselves with stealing business from unfortunate high street independents. They cannot compete on cost with a chain that boasts high volumes and sophisticated distribution techniques.

The question is how long the two chains will avoid stepping on each other's toes. Carpetright claims 14 per cent of the market and wants to double its share but Allied has similar ambitions with plans to open 20 stores this year.

With plans to open 40 Carpet Depot superstores this *year, Carpetright's strategy looks suspiciously* like carpet bombing. Analagous to war, the approach to retailing runs the risk of killing the market that the retailer seeks to capture. Sooner rather than later, the carpet barons will encroach on each other's territories. They will then begin to sacrifice margin in an effort to keep sales moving, if they are not doing so already.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Jul	980-965	Sep	1045-1043
Sep	986-985	Dec	1060-1058
Dec	994-993	Mar	1068-1060
Mar	1011-1010	May	1073-1070
May	1027-1025		
Jul	1937-1035		Volume: 3400

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1500-1495	Mar	1385-1381
Sep	1535-1530	May	1370-1369
Nov	1485-1483	Jul	1375-1370
Jan	1428-1427		Volume: 2619

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	331.5-31.1
Spot: 360.0		Aug	330.0-29.2
Oct	342.8-42.0	Oct	320.0-18.5
Dec	337.5-37.1	Dec	322.5-20.0
Mar	335.5-35.1		Volume: 2439

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on July 22

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	106.47	110.22	100.25
(+/-)	-10.36	-3.41	-0.79
Eng/Wales:	106.21	110.88	99.85
(+/-)	-10.62	-3.56	-0.71
(%)	-4.0	-9.0	-7.0
Scotland:	115.52	106.71	103.36
(+/-)	-1.36	-1.50	-2.10
(%)	+13.0	+15.0	+10.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.45	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Sep)	19.30	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.90	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	20.90	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	20.35	+0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	204 (-2)	206 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	183 (-1)	185 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	87 (n/c)	89 (n/c)
Naphtha	193 (+5)	195 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	178.50-78.75	Nov	171.50-71.75
Sep	174.75-75.00	Dec	170.75-71.00
Oct	173.00-73.25		Vol: 8318

BRENT (6.00pm)

Sep	19.31-19.33	Dec	18.16-18.23
Oct	18.86-18.90	Jan	17.93 SLR
Nov	18.53 SLR		Vol: 17998

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	110.00	Sep	102.15
Nov	112.40	Nov	105.10
Jan	114.35	Jan	106.95
Mar	116.30	Mar	109.15
May	118.30	May	110.00
Volume: 129		Volume: 52	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	85.0
Mar	—	110.0
Apr	123.0	127.6
		Volume: 81

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Aug 91.50-92.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jul 96	1115	1095	1094
Aug 96	1120	1096	1101
Sep 96	1165	1129	1129
Oct 96	1240	1216	1216
Vol: 365 lots		Open interest: 4461	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)			Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2015.0-2017.0	3mth: 1918.0-1919.0	Vol: 1321825
Lead ($/tonne)	780.50-781.00	788.50-789.00	180700
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	992.50-993.50	1019.5-1020.0	247700
Tin ($/tonne)	6215.0-6225.0	6270.0-6280.0	17880
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1461.5-1462.0	1498.5-1499.0	710700
Nickel ($/tonne)	7010.0-7015.0	7110.0-7115.0	66420

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Alld Dom	420	22	30	33	11	20	22
(*425)	460	8	13	16	36	46	47
ASDA	110	8	10	12	4	5	7
(*115)	120	3	6	8	9	11	12
Boots	550	48	55	65	5	11	15
(*585)	600	17	26	36	25	33	36
Br Airways	500	26	36	47	13	21	26
(*506)	550	8	16	25	45	50	54
BP	550	47	59	62	6	12	17
(*590)	600	17	26	34	25	34	39
Br Steel	160	16	19	22	3	6	7
(*172)	180	5	9	12	12	16	17
C & W	390	31	40	48	8	14	17
(*409)	420	14	24	32	20	28	31
CU	550	42	53	60	9	16	26
(*586)	600	13	29	34	34	40	52
ICI	750	49	65	76	14	21	31
(*790)	800	21	38	48	37	44	56
Land Sec	600	40	47	56	5	12	14
(*627)	650	13	20	28	27	39	37
M & S	460	33	40	49	6	11	14
(*482)	500	10	19	27	25	30	33
Nat West	600	36	52	58	15	24	34
(*624)	650	14	28	34	43	51	62
Safeway plc	330	17	25	30	12	18	21
(*333)	360	5	12	18	30	35	39
Sainsbury	360	18	25	32	8	15	17
(*365)	390	5	11	18	27	32	34
Shell	900	48	57	70	13	20	30
(*931)	950	18	30	42	38	45	54
Smkl Bch	687	33	—	—	19	—	—
(*695)	736	12	—	—	50	—	—
Storehse	280	18	—	—	6	—	—
(*288)	300	8	—	—	17	—	—
Trafalgar	50	1	—	—	0	—	—
(*50)	60	0	—	—	10	—	—
Zeneca	1400	62	89	109	54	72	88
(*1400)	1450	41	66	86	84	100	116
	Series	Aug	Nov	Jan	Aug	Nov	Jan
BAT Ind	460	37	42	50	3	11	15
(*496)	500	8	19	28	21	30	33
Vodafone	220	10	18	21	4	10	13
(*224)	240	2	9	12	17	21	24
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	420	14	28	34	6	12	22
(*427)	460	1	11	17	33	37	45
Ladbroke	180	10	16	21	3	9	13
(*186)	200	2	7	12	15	21	24
Utd Bisc	220	5	13	18	9	12	15
(*220)	240	0	6	10	20	25	28

July 23, 1996 Tot: 35450 Calls: 18485 Puts: 16965 FT-SE Calls: 5681 Puts: 5686
*Underlying security price.

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA	460	39	46	53	5	11	14
(*489)	500	14	23	30	21	28	31
Thames W	550	28	37	46	14	25	30
(*556)	600	9	17	25	45	56	60
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	220	20	23	26	0	4	6
(*239)	240	6	11	15	9	13	15
Br Aero	900	54	75	95	4	20	28
(*945)	950	20	46	67	20	40	49
Br Telcm	330	28	29	33	2	8	15
(*357)	360	4	11	18	18	22	30
Cadbury	460	35	44	55	1	9	14
(*491)	500	8	21	32	15	27	31
Guinness	460	17	26	37	5	15	19
(*469)	500	2	9	19	31	38	40
GEC	360	22	32	38	2	7	11
(*379)	390	4	15	21	15	20	25
Hanson	140	16	18	19	0	3	7
(*155)	160	2	6	9	6	12	17
LASMO	180	7	13	18	3	7	8
(*184)	200	1	5	9	16	18	19
Lucas	200	18	25	30	1	6	7
(*216)	220	6	14	18	9	14	16
Pilkingtn	191	9	—	—	3	—	—
(*195)	210	1	—	—	15	—	—
Prudential	420	11	20	30	9	19	24
(*420)	460	1	7	14	40	46	50
Redland	420	15	27	35	7	19	23
(*426)	460	2	11	18	34	43	47
R-Royce	220	8	16	21	5	11	14
(*222)	240	1	7	12	18	23	26
Tesco	280	12	19	26	4	11	14
(*286)	300	3	10	17	16	22	25
Williams	330	10	17	—	4	12	—
(*335)	360	0	5	—	24	32	—

FT-SE INDEX (*3707)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Aug	116	78	48	25	10	4
Sep	142	107	77	53	34	19
Oct	160	128	98	74	52	37
Nov	181	150	119	95	72	54
Dec	201	—	140	—	94	—
Puts						
Aug	17	29	48	75	111	154
Sep	36	52	71	97	128	165
Oct	50	68	87	113	141	176
Nov	64	83	101	126	153	185
Dec	79	—	118	—	170	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Sep	Dec	Apr	Sep	Dec	Apr
Abby Nat	550	24	39	49	15	23	37
(*562)	600	6	17	26	48	52	65
Amstrad	180	17	23	—	7	12	—
(*189)	200	8	14	—	18	22	—
Barclays	800	22	41	56	26	34	51
(*804)	850	6	21	34	61	66	81
Blue Circ	360	17	26	30	10	16	18
(*366)	390	4	13	17	29	33	35
Br Gas	180	18	22	25	2	5	8
(*195)	200	6	10	15	10	15	18
Dixons	500	21	35	44	15	24	30
(*501)	550	4	14	23	50	54	59
Forte	343	26	—	—	0	—	—
(*368)	373	5	—	—	8	—	—
Tarmac	100	6	9	11	4	8	9
(*101)	110	2	5	7	10	14	14
Hillsdwn	160	11	14	17	3	6	7
(*168)	190	1	5	7	13	17	18
Lonrho	160	9	14	17	3	6	8
(*166)	180	1	5	8	16	18	19
Sears	90	9	10	—	1	2	—
(*97)	100	3	5	—	5	7	—
Thorn	1600	104	131	—	21	40	—
(*1689)	1700	40	76	—	69	86	—
Tomkins	260	9	14	19	11	14	17
(*263)	280	2	7	11	26	27	30
Lloyds TSB	330	13	22	28	11	16	24
(*333)	360	2	10	15	32	35	42
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo W	900	38	61	76	34	45	57
(*911)	950	18	39	53	64	74	86
HSBC	1050	53	81	98	34	50	66
(*1068)	1100	30	56	74	62	76	93
Reuter	700	52	69	81	16	26	37
(*728)	750	26	42	55	40	49	60
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Royal & Sun	366	17	26	29	15	21	28
(*369)	394	8	15	18	33	39	45
	Series	Oct	Feb	May	Oct	Feb	May
Kingfishr	600	38	56	63	15	25	34
(*619)	650	14	31	39	42	51	60
	Series	Oct	Dec	Mar	Oct	Dec	Mar
Unilever	1200	57	66	87	14	22	27
(*1226)	1250	27	38	58	36	45	49
	Series	Sep	Dec	Apr	Sep	Dec	Apr
Natl Pwr	360	32	41	49	4	11	15
(*386)	400	10	19	28	20	29	33
Scot Pwr	300	17	20	27	10	17	22
(*310)	330	4	9	16	32	35	41

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 63287	Sep 96	3684.0	3712.0	3682.0	3707.0	9962
	Dec 96	3727.0	3727.0	3727.0	3727.0	20
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3491	Sep 96				4236.0	0
	Dec 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 406844	Sep 96	94.25	94.27	94.25	94.27	5606
	Dec 96	94.14	94.16	94.13	94.15	7217
	Mar 97	93.84	93.86	93.83	93.84	4346
Three Mth Euro Yen	Dec 96	98.71	98.72	98.70	98.71	450
	Mar 97				98.43	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 964193	Sep 96	96.73	96.73	96.71	96.72	21164
	Dec 96	96.63	96.64	96.61	96.62	23150
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 133862	Sep 96	106-18	106-24	106-14	106-19	31430
	Dec 96				105-25	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Sep 96	118.26	118.50	118.26	118.41	2644
	Dec 96	117.24	117.28	117.22	117.33	358
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 233489	Sep 96	96.75	96.83	96.66	96.73	83060
	Dec 96	95.77	95.84	95.75	95.81	780
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 25218	Sep 96	95.66	95.67	95.65	95.67	590
	Dec 96	95.63	95.65	95.63	95.65	513
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 71360	Sep 96	97.46	97.48	97.38	97.39	7741
	Dec 96	97.35	97.37	97.27	97.28	5415
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 62320	Sep 96	117.15	117.65	116.81	117.27	43874
	Dec 96	116.29	116.45	116.29	116.55	210

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5[illegible] Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 6.

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.34	n/a	5.53	5.74	6.05
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3-2
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $385.10-385.40 Close: $384.10-384.60 High: $385.10-385.60
Low: $383.80-384.30 AM: $385.20 PM: $385.10

Krugerrand: $383.25-386.25 (£247.00-249.00)

Platinum: $396.50 (£255.30) Silver: $4.99 (£3.215) Palladium: $134.00 (£86.30)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for July 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5807-2.5935	2.5906-2.5935	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	47.370-47.656	47.585-47.656	13-8pr	32-25pr
Copenhagen	8.8680-8.9138	8.9045-8.9138	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	0.9606-0.9641	0.9624-0.9641	n/a	n/a
Frankfurt	2.2992-2.3114	2.3093-2.3114	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	236.26-237.74	237.46-237.74	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	194.46-195.70	195.52-195.70	23-33ds	65-83ds
Milan	2340.5-2350.9	2348.9-2349.1	5-7ds	15-17ds
Montreal	2.1235-2.1319	2.1257-2.1276	0.26-0.21pr	0.45-0.37pr
New York	1.5498-1.5534	1.5505-1.5513	0.057-0.037pr	0.062-0.032pr
Oslo	9.8900-9.9412	9.9244-9.9412	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	7.7810-7.8227	7.8172-7.8227	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	10.162-10.216	10.195-10.216	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	166.47-167.54	167.31-167.54	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	16.175-16.267	16.250-16.267	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	1.8668-1.8817	1.8800-1.8817	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel — Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2579-1.2687
Austria	10.46-10.47
Belgium (Com)	30.64-30.65
Canada	1.3710-1.3715
Denmark	5.7345-5.7375
France	5.0347-5.0357
Germany	1.4870-1.4880
Hong Kong	7.7342-7.7352
Ireland	1.6130-1.6150
Italy	1513.00-1514.00
Japan	107.74-107.81
Malaysia	2.4875-2.4885
Netherlands	1.6693-1.6698
Norway	6.3943-6.4018
Portugal	153.05-153.10
Singapore	1.4175-1.4185
Spain	125.96-126.00
Sweden	6.5672-6.5772
Switzerland	1.2095-1.2105

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5527-1.5553
Australia dollar	1.9681-1.9699
Bahrain dinar	0.5785-0.5905
Brazil real*	1.5705-1.5747
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7025-0.7125
Finland markka	6.9400-7.0560
Greece drachma	361.25-368.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.0112-12.0166
India rupee	54.64-55.60
Indonesia rupiah	3579.00-3647.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4585-0.4685
Malaysia ringgit	3.8631-3.8659
New Zealand dollar	2.2371-2.2408
Pakistan rupee	54.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5825-5.7000
Singapore dollar	2.2004-2.2034
S Africa rand (com)	6.7960-6.8980
U A E dirham	5.6350-5.7590

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,900	Marks Spr	3,000
ASDA Gp	11,100	NatWst Bk	4,600
Abbey Ntl	1,200	Nat Grid	5,400
Allied Dom	799	Nat Power	1,900
Argos	196	Next	319
AB Foods	630	Orange	2,700
BAA	2,500	P & O	282
BAT Inds	6,900	Pearson	935
BOC	413	Pilkington	3,100
BP	6,800	PowerGen	501
BSkyB	2,000	Prudential	3,600
BTR	4,600	RMC	218
BT	9,200	RTZ	1,400
Bk of Scot	2,800	Rank Org	1,400
Barclays	1,800	Reckitt Col	690
Bass	1,900	Redland	1,300
Blue Circle	650	Reed Intl	1,400
Boots	1,600	Rentokil	7,700
BAe	681	Reuters	1,800
BA	3,400	Rolls Royce	4,000
Brit Gas	7,800	Royal & Sun	4,000
Brit Steel	7,300	Royal Bk Sct	957
Burmah Cstl	383	Safeway	2,500
Burton	8,300	Sainsbury	2,300
Cable Wire	3,300	Schroders	5
Cadbury	1,700	Scot & New	780
Carlton Cms	4,200	Scot Power	1,400
Cm Union	2,500	Svrn Trent	178
Cookson	8,300	Shell Trans	4,800
Courtaulds	770	Siebe	1,200
Dixons	1,600	SmKl Bch	13,500
Enterpr Oil	641	Smith Nph	1,100
GKN	449	Smiths Inds	276
GRE	3,400	Sthern Elec	162
GUS	890	Std Chartd	2,100
Gen Acc	248	TI Gp	83
Gen Elec	5,100	Tate & Lyle	750
Glaxo Well	4,100	Tesco	9,500
Granada	2,900	Thames W	829
Grand Met	1,200	Thrn EMI	1,800
Guinness	1,100	Tomkins	326
HSBC	1,800	Unilever	990
Hanson	18,400	Utd Utilities	914
ICI	1,000	Utd News	1,900
Kingfisher	3,600	Vodafone	2,600
LASMO	*2,400*	*Whitbread*	*1,400*
Ladbroke	4,100	Wlms Hld	998
Land Secs	1,100	Wolseley	235
Legal & Gn	1,500	Zeneca	879
Lloyds TSB	3,100		

WALL STREET

	Jul 23 midday	Jul 22 close
AMP Inc	37	37
AMR Corp	79	77
ASA	38	39
AT & T	51	51
Abbott Labs	44	44
Advanced Micro	10	10
Aetna Life	62	62
Ahmanson (HF)	24	24
Air Prod & Chem	53	53
AirTouch Comm	26	26
Alberto-Culver B	43	43
Albertson's	40	39
Alcan Alumnm	29	29
Alco Standard	43	42
Allied Signal	58	55
Alum Co of Am	56	55
Amax Gold Inc	5	5
Amerada Hess	50	50
Amer Brands	43	44
Amer El Power	42	42
Amer Express	42	41
Amer Genl Corp	34	35
Amer Home Pr	57	58
Amer Intl	91	92
Amer Stores	36	35
Amer Standard	29	29
Ameritech	55	55
Amoco	67	67
Anheuser-Busch	73	73
Apple Computer	20	20
Archer Daniels	16	16
Armco	4	4
Armstrng Wrld	55	55
Asarco	24	24
Atl Richfield	119	118
Auto Data Pro	38	38
Avery Dennison	50	50
Avon Products	41	42
Baker Hughes	32	32
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	34	33
BankAmerica	78	78
Bank of NY	50	49
Bankers Tr NY	73	73
Barnett Banks	60	59
Bausch & Lomb	37	37
Baxter Intl	43	43
Becton Dicknsn	74	74
Bell Atlantic	59	58
Bell Industries	17	17
BellSouth	41	40
Black & Decker	38	38
Block (H&R)	25	25
Boeing	86	86
Boise Cascade	32	32
Bristol Myrs Sq	87	87
Browning Ferris	25	25
Brunswick	19	19
Burlington Nthn	79	79
CMS Energy Corp	30	30
CNA Financial	99	99
CPC Intl	66	66
CSX	47	46
Campbell Soup	66	66
Can Pacific	21	20
Carolina Pwr	35	35
Caterpillar	65	65
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	42	42
Chase Manhat	67	68
Chevron Corp	57	57
Chrysler	28	28
Chubb Corp	44	45
Cigna Corp	108	108
Citicorp	81	81
Clorox	90	88
Coastal Corp	41	41
Coca Cola	47	47
Colgate-Palmolive	82	81
Columbia Gas	52	52
ColumbiaHCA	50	50
Compaq Comp	46	47
Comp Ass Intl	46	47
Conagra	42	42
Conrail	65	65
Cons Edison	27	27
Cons Nat Gas	52	52
Cooper Inds	37	37
Corestates	38	38
Corning Inc	35	35
Crown Cork	43	43
Dana Corp	28	28
Dayton Hudson	30	30
Deere	36	36
Delta Air Lines	71	70
Deluxe Corp	35	35
Digital Equip	37	37
Dillard Dept St	32	32
Disney (Walt)	56	56
Dominion Res	37	37
Donnelley (RR)	31	31
Dover Corp	42	42
Dow Chemical	71	71
Dow Jones	38	38
Dresser	29	28
Duke Power	48	48
Dun & Bradstreet	58	58
Du Pont	76	76
Eastman Chem	57	53
Eastman Kodak	73	73
Eaton Corp	54	54
Edison Intl	15	15
Emerson Elec	83	82
Engelhard Corp	20	20
Enron Corp	39	39
Entergy	25	25
Ethyl Corp	8	9
Exxon	85	85
FMC Corp	63	63
FPL Group	45	46
Federal Express	78	77
Fed Nat Mtge	32	31
First Bk Sys	59	59
First Union Rlty	6	6
Fleet Finl Grp	39	39
Fluor Corp	61	61
Ford Motor	32	32
GTE Corp	40	40
Gannett	65	65
Gap Inc Del	29	30
Gen Dynamics	62	62
Gen Electric	81	80
Gen Mills	54	54
Gen Motors	48	48
Gen Reinsurance	148	147
Gen Signal	37	37
Genuine Parts	42	42
Georgia Pac	74	73
Gillette	65	63
Glaxo Welc ADR	28	27
Goodrich (BF)	36	36
Goodyear Tire	42	42
Grace (W&R)	61	61
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28	27
Great Wstn Fin	22	22
Halliburton	57	57
Harcourt General	47	47
Heinz (HJ)	32	32
Hercules	49	49
Hershey Foods	75	72
Hewlett Packard	42	43
Hilton Hotels	103	103
Home Depot	51	52
Homestake Mng	16	16
Honeywell	51	51
Household Intl	71	70
Houston Inds	22	22
Humana	17	16
ITT Corp	55	56
Illinois Tool	64	64
Illinova	26	26
INCO	30	30
Ingersoll Rand	40	39
Inland Steel	17	17
Intel Corp	71	72
IBM	93	92
Intl Flav & Fr	42	43
Intl Paper	38	38
James River Va	25	25
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	48	48
Kellogg	74	74
Kerr-McGee	61	61
Kimberly-Clark	76	76
Kmart	10	10
Knight-Ridder	66	66
Lilly (Eli)	57	58
Limited Inc	18	18
Lincoln Nat	42	42
Litton	43	42
Liz Claiborne	31	30
Lockheed Martin	80	79
Louisiana Pac	21	21
MCI Comm	23	23
Marriott Int	50	50
Marsh & McLnn	90	90
Masco Corp	28	29
May Dept St	42	42
Maytag Corp	18	18
McDonalds	46	45
McDonnell D	46	46
McGraw Hill	40	40
Mead Corp	53	53
Medtronic	49	49
Mellon Bk	52	53
Melville Corp	38	39
Merck Inc	65	65
Merrill Lynch	58	57
Microsoft	117	119
Minnesota Mine	65	65
Mobil Corp	114	114
Monsanto	28	28
Morgan (JP)	86	85
Motorola Inc	53	53
Natl Semi	13	14
Natl Service Ind	38	38
Navistar Int	10	10
NY Times A	29	29
Newmont Mng	49	49
Niag Mohawk	6	6
Nike B	101	100
NL Industries	10	11
Noram Energy	11	11
Nordstrom	40	40
Norfolk Sthrn	82	81
Nthn State Pwr	45	46
Norwest Corp	33	33
Nynex Corp	45	44
Occidental Pet	22	22
Ohio Edison	20	20
Oracle	37	37
Oryx Energy Co	15	15
Overseas Ship	16	16
Owens Corning	39	39
PHH Corp	52	52
PPG Industries	45	45
PNC Bank	29	29
PP&L Res	22	22
Paccar Inc	48	48
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	29	29
Pac Gas & Elect	20	21
Pac Telesis	34	34
Pall Corp	23	22
Parker Hannifin	35	35
Peco Energy	24	24
Penney (JC)	49	49
Pennzoil	49	49
Pepsico	33	32
Pfizer	72	73
Pharm & Upjhn	40	40
Phelps Dodge	56	56
Philip Morris	100	99
Phillips Pet	41	41
Pitney Bowes	45	45
Polaroid	43	43
PriceCostco	20	21
Procter & Gmbl	86	86
Providian	39	39
Pub Serv E & G	26	26
Quaker Oats	31	31
Ralston Purina	59	58
Raychem Corp	62	61
Raytheon	45	46
Reebok Intl	31	31
Reynolds Metals	50	49
Rockwell Intl	52	51
Rohm & Haas	56	55
Royal Dutch	151	150
Rubbermaid	28	28
SBC Comms	49	49
Safeco Corp	33	32
St Paul's Cos	53	53
Salomon Inc	39	39
Sara Lee Corp	30	30
Schering Plough	59	58
Schlumberger	82	81
Seagram	31	31
Sears Roebuck	42	42
Shell Trans	87	86
Sherwin Wllms	44	44
Skyline Corp	24	24
Snap-On-Tools	43	43
Southern Co	22	22
Sprint Corp	35	35
Stanley Works	30	30
Sun Company	26	27
Sun Microsys	53	52
Suntrust	36	36
Supervalu	28	28
Sysco Corp	28	28
TRW Inc	85	84
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	10	10
Tandy Corp	41	41
Teledyne	36	36
Temple Inland	48	48
Tenneco	47	48
Texaco	85	86
Texas Inst	43	43
Texas Utilities	42	42
Textron	78	78
Time Warner	34	34
Times-Mirror A	41	40
Timken	38	38
Torchmark	41	41
Toys R Us	26	25
Transamerica	71	70
Travelers	42	41
Tribune	67	66
Tyco Int	40	39
UST Inc	32	32
UAL	47	45
US Inds	23	23
US West Comm	30	30
USX Marathon	21	21
Unicom	25	25
Unilever NV	140	141
Union Camp	48	48
Union Carbide	37	39
Union Pacific	69	69
Unisys Corp	5	5
USAIR Group	16	15
USF&G Corp	15	15
US Life	30	30
United Tech	108	106
Unocal Corp	31	31
VF Corp	55	55
WMX Tech	30	[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	23	23
Warner-Lambert	54	53
Wells Fargo	225	226
Westinghouse El	16	16
Weyerhaeuser	43	43
Whirlpool	48	49
Whitman	23	23
Winn Dixie	34	33
Woolworth	20	19
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	49	49
Xerox	49	48
Yellow Corp	12	12

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hopkins the whistleblower

IAN HOPKINS, former head of group treasury and risk at Barings, yesterday gave MPs a fascinating insight into the final days at the merchant bank. Hopkins, who was giving evidence to the Treasury Select Committee, is regarded in some quarters as a "whistleblower" for trying to raise concerns over Barings's lack of risk controls. He was fired from the senior management committee on which Peter Norris, the former chief executive officer sat. What MPs wanted to know was why. "I was told I had got right up Peter Norris's nose," he replied.

Numbers game

FULL marks to the Halifax for its craftily worded announcement yesterday, not to mention its mathematics. The first paragraph, from the building society that is planning a £10 billion flotation, highlighted its "potential to create 1,000 jobs over the next 18 months". Further down, the Halifax came clean: "Over the same period approximately 1,200 jobs will be phased out as more efficient procedures are introduced. The net position is that by the end of 1997 there will be about 200 fewer jobs in the head office locations."

"Now we can afford a new carpet"

Dripping wet

UNITED UTILITIES, the water and power group facing a shareholder revolt over executive pay, is putting up a brave defence after forking out a fortune to lease one of the capital's most expensive buildings as its London's headquarters. The company that signed a lease for the 9,000 sq ft building in Mayfair says it will require two out of five floors to be kept free for business meetings. United Utilities explained the reasoning behind the group's move from Old Queen Street: "Our present London office runs on Thames Water, and the pressure is so fast, that people regularly come out the loos looking soaked."

Siren voices

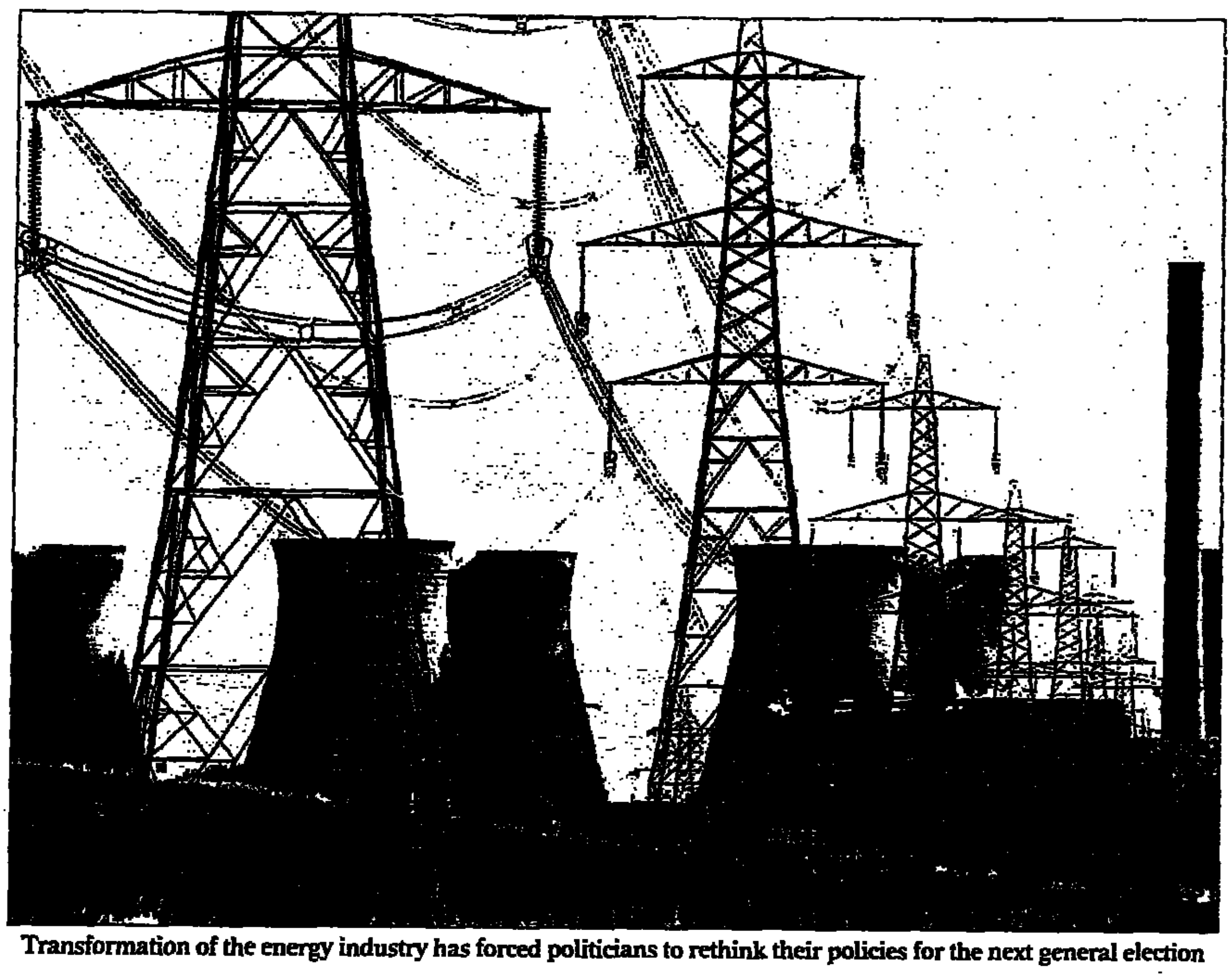
WOMEN, sex, and power is the head-turning story tackled in *Fortune* magazine. The US business bimonthly focuses on seven sirens from the US who have rocketed through the glass ceilings, sending temperatures soaring. According to *Fortune*: "They embrace — even flaunt — their femininty and sexuality to get where they want to be." Step forward Charlotte Beers, 61, chief executive officer at Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide, who calls CEOs "honey" and "darlin". She has even been known to refer to Lou Gerstner, CEO at IBM, as "that adorable little man". Dede Brooks, CEO at Sotheby's, and Linda Marcelli, Merrill Lynch's district director in New York, are also on the list.

AS SHOPPERS dive towards the freezer section at Safeways around the country, tripping one another up in their pursuit of a cold lolly, a basket of bargain goodies is being sadly neglected. In the spirit of the summer sales, Holt's anti-freeze and deicer is on offer at enticing discount prices.

MORAG PRESTON

Parties see fine-tuning as next step in power politics

Christine Buckley on energy, now high up as a poll issue



Transformation of the energy industry has forced politicians to rethink their policies for the next general election

Greg Knight, the new Energy Minister, yesterday moved from the Deputy Chief Whip's office into one of the most crucial political roles in the run-up to a general election. When the Liberal Democrats became the first political party to bring out a pre-election energy policy, with a carbon tax as its cornerstone, they began one of the key campaign debates.

The Lib Dems took the first round, with energy politics likely to be important in the fight for votes. The public eye has been well locked on to utilities through disputes over executive pay. And as the programme to introduce competition to household power progresses, energy will stay near the top of the political agenda. Its ticket is a loaded one, spanning consumer issues, regulatory control, the environment and competition.

Labour's plans for a £3 billion windfall tax have raised the stakes in the public backlash against power and water companies. Later this year, the political parties' post-conference campaigning will coincide with a review by the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee of the gas and electricity regulators, focusing attention further.

Details of what we shall see from the main parties is unclear, as yet, but some framework is emerging. Dieter Helm, an energy economist, commented recently that the similarities between Labour and the Conservatives are greater than the differences. He accused the two main parties of short-termist strategies unlikely to provide a solid basis for energy utilities. In an editorial in *Energy Utilities*, he said: "Just as Europe seems to be getting its energy and competition policies sorted out, Britain's politicians seem content with an old-fashioned round of utility bashing."

Energy has changed almost beyond recognition under the Conservative Government, as a result of privatisation. Ahead of the next election, the Conservatives are likely to make much of falling domestic bills and the embryonic structure that will soon allow the nation to shop around for power. They will, of course, be attacked for the companies' huge profits and for the big paybacks to shareholders, most notably National Power's £1.1 billion special dividend.

The clearest sign yet of what the Conservatives may do with their energy policy came recently in a speech to the Royal Institute of International Affairs by Tim Eggar, who yesterday resigned as Energy Minister, and in his response in a Commons debate on energy. Although attention will soon switch to the likely policies drafted by the new Energy Minister, the industry will, for now, still be focusing on Mr Eggar's words.

One possibility mooted was a new surcharge on electricity bills to encourage use of clean coal or even the further use of nuclear power.

Mr Eggar said: "An open approach would concentrate the minds of both consumers and producers, and ensure a rigorous examination of the options." However, he indicated that further support of renewables, such as wind, wave and solar power, may not be guaranteed once they had proceeded sufficiently down the development path.

Mr Eggar's highlighting of clean coal is an interesting hint of what a future Conservative government may do to support the coal industry. Although avoiding immediate support for a mixed-fuel economy, saying that fears over the power industry's dependence on gas are overplayed, Mr Eggar hinted at help for coal. This will cheer a coal industry that has campaigned for government help in the costly development of clean-up technologies for the fuel.

Labour is the party most likely to want to take up the mixed-fuel case and to produce a structure in which coal could survive after the end of the current contracts with the generators in 1998. Coal-mining, past and present, dominates much of Labour's heartland.

Renationalisation of coal is no longer on Labour's agenda. Instead, Labour has embraced the ideal of competition in domestic supply, signalling the customer rewards it can bring.

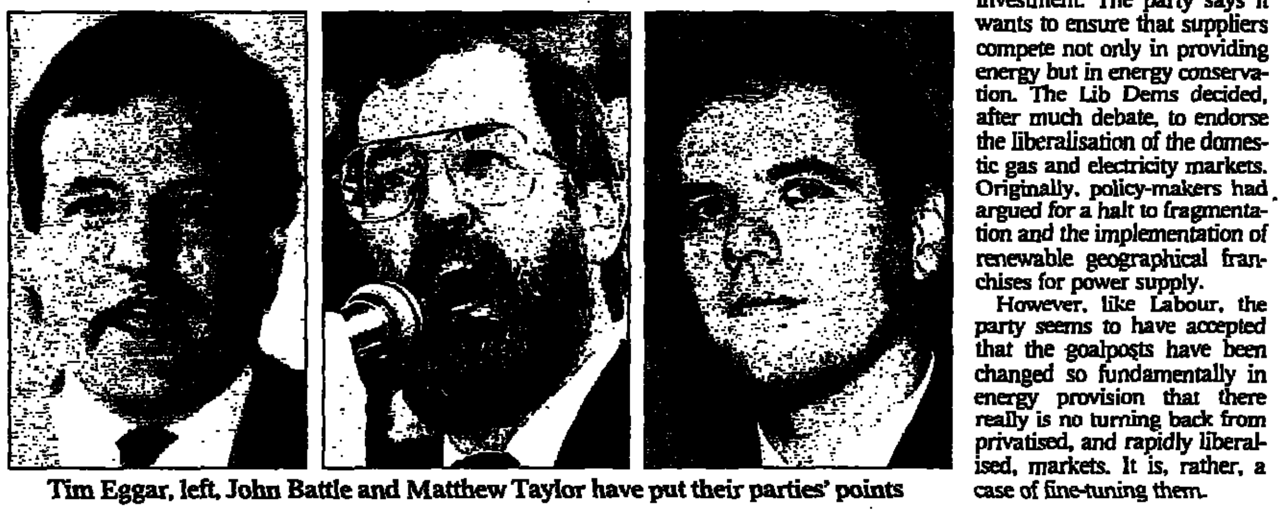
One specific upon which Labour recently touched was a possible shake-up of the electricity pool. The little understood, but highly criticised, labyrinthine structure that administers electricity pricing, trading and settlement, could be reorganised. John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, indicated that Labour could look at replacing it with a Swedish model that would not involve pooled power and hinted that nuclear generation may lose its present privileged position, sending a shockwave through the British Energy flotation.

The windfall tax proposed by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is bound to cast a pall over energy policy and has lit up divisions within Labour on competition policy, with Kim Howells, spokesman on industry, warning of its effect on the competitiveness of companies hit by it.

While Labour aims to raise £3 billion from its windfall tax, the Liberal Democrats' target from their carbon tax — to be levied on energy sources — is £1 billion. Positioning themselves for the green vote, the Lib Dems, for whom Matthew Taylor speaks on environmental and energy matters, would institute a carbon tax to provide a long-term incentive for energy conservation, with revenue from the tax used to cut VAT and other taxes. The party also plans a levy to fund investment in energy conservation, which would go on electricity bills in place of that part of the present fossil fuel levy that supports nuclear power.

The Lib Dems also propose to strengthen conditions on the licences of electricity and gas companies to ensure that they embrace energy conservation investment. The party says it wants to ensure that suppliers compete not only in providing energy but in energy conservation. The Lib Dems decided, after much debate, to endorse the liberalisation of the domestic gas and electricity markets. Originally, policy-makers had argued for a halt to fragmentation and the implementation of renewable geographical franchises for power supply.

However, like Labour, the party seems to have accepted that the goalposts have been changed so fundamentally in energy provision that there really is no turning back from privatised, and rapidly liberalised, markets. It is, rather, a case of fine-tuning them.



Tim Eggar, left, John Battle and Matthew Taylor have put their parties' points

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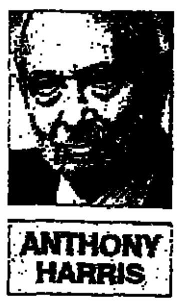


ANTHONY HARRIS

Feeling good? Now for the true figures

Readers should know better than to worry about recent market rumbles: these come, like thunder, with a hot July. The bosses are on holiday, and the mice in red braces play. Not quite idly: they are trying to scare up a bonus for Christmas. Will Wall Street crash? Is Kenneth Clarke playing politics? Will the Fed raise rates, or the Bundesbank cut them? All good worrying points, but all questions with the same answer: probably not.

Much better to spend the time trying to understand the big unknowns. Why is inflation so low? Why, three years into a recovery, does nobody outside the Square Mile seem to feel good? Why is growth still so sluggish, compared with past recoveries? Is all this a passing phase, or a sign of fundamental change? In stock market terms, are bonds a trap, or the buy of a lifetime? These questions matter, and the best help I have seen for some time in fumbling for an answer has just come in from Flemings. Peter Warburton has pulled together months of research into the British labour market, and revealed all.

His central point: many of the answers have been published by the Government, but not in the figures we usually watch — the unemployment figures (largely political) or even those for employment (accurate, but still misleading). They are in the detail of the official Labour Force Survey. This consists of 42 pages of solid numbers, so thanks to Warburton for pre-digesting them: and to the Employment Policy Institute and the Equal Opportunities Commission for revealing extra details.

First the result, then the reasons. These numbers turn a lot of accepted ideas on their head. Many people think the UK is leading Europe in solving the unemployment problem: the numbers are coming down, more people than ever are in jobs, and real wages are rising (look at the numbers for real disposable income, or RPDI). Everyone ought to vote Tory in gratitude — except that they say they won't. On the facts according to Warburton, this is only natural.

Employment is in fact down. Real wages are stuck in a rut, as they were for a decade in the US. It is working — we are more competitive — but it is still hurting. And how can these figures, which are official, be reconciled with the equally official figures which ministers prefer to discuss? As follows. Employment, measured by the number of paid jobs, is indeed up; but the number of paid hours which the market demands is down 5 per cent since 1990, because jobs, like amoebae, have multiplied by splitting. In 1986, less than 8 per cent of mature men were in part-time work; today, it is nearer 20 per cent.

Wages? Real income from employment fell precipitously in the 1991 recession, and has not yet recovered the loss; even those in work have achieved only a standstill. This year's rise in RPDI (feared in the bond market as showing a rise in costs) is due largely to interest, dividends and rents. In other words, it is not an employment cost, and is at the disposal not of the voters, but of their pension fund managers. The managers are no doubt enjoying performance bonuses: but who else is feeling good?

All this is bad news not just for the Conservatives, but for prospective retail sales. The increase in pay differentials makes matters worse: the gap between the top and bottom deciles of wage earners has risen from about 2.4 times in 1980 to 3.8 times today. A large number of people are worse off than they were when Mrs Thatcher came to power.

But what is bad for personal well-being and for Tory candidates may be good for bonds. Current labour costs are not only much better behaved than the headlines have suggested, but likely to stay that way. Part-timers are not militant, and are easily shed if demand is weak. If the economy does slacken, as recent consumer borrowing figures suggest, expect bad employment news, but good news on costs.

More to it? Of course; lots more. This is hardly even a sketch of Warburton's distillation of a mountain of numbers. Enough, though, I hope, to whet your appetite.

Fraser Nelson on the 'Year 2000 Problem' for business

Facing up to millennium meltdown

For Marks & Spencer, the nightmare began with a tin of corn beef, rejected on the ground that it was 96 years out of date. The store's longest lasting food, its best-before date ran into the new millennium, throwing the quality-control computer into confusion. It was found that the computer could recognise dates only in the 20th century. M&S had become one of the first casualties of millennium meltdown.

After years of laughing at the scare stories, British industry has started to take the "Year 2000 Problem" much more seriously. It has become clear that almost every type of enterprise, from coffee machine makers to the Defence Ministry, has software that cannot calculate past 1999.

The problem is simple. Software systems that store dates in dd/mm/yy format are unable to differentiate between 2001 and 1901, identifying both as '01' For display purposes, this poses no problem: if a computer dates a letter 2/2/01, its reader will get the message. But in business, computers subtract one date from another and will throw up an error if told that an insurance policy starts in 97 and ends in 01. As the millennium aproaches, this faulty arithmetic is plunging systems into a digital abyss.

On the whole, business had hitherto supposed that such a simple problem must have a simple solution. Seen as more of a headache than a time-bomb, the task was postponed. Rob Wirszycz, director-general of the Computing Services and Software Association, says that procrastination has taken computer systems to the brink of collapse.

He adds: "It has been put off for decades, and as a result, we're looking at the biggest threat to business continuity since terrorism. Correcting a line of data may be easy, but the sheer scale and complexity of the network makes correction a logistical nightmare."

Updating a system is done in three stages. First, an impact analysis works out which records need changing, and whether it is worth replacing the system altogether. Then, the operation is planned, which takes between three to five months. Lastly, the records are updated — a matter of adding two digits — and the whole system has to work in harmony. One line of overlooked data can send the system crashing again.

The costs of correction vary. Royal Bank of Scotland paid £300,000 for the impact analysis alone. Data costs £1.50 per line to ammend, but given that most systems contain hundreds of thousands of lines, the cost to large institutions can run into millions. One report estimated the worldwide costs of correction at £600 billion.

Businesses are trying to find ways out. Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, says some companies are selling loan portfolios whose assets are less than the cost of correcting the system it is stored on. Others are thinking of mounting a legal challenge to software suppliers, saying that systems bought in the mid-Eighties should be expected to have a shelf life beyond 15 years.

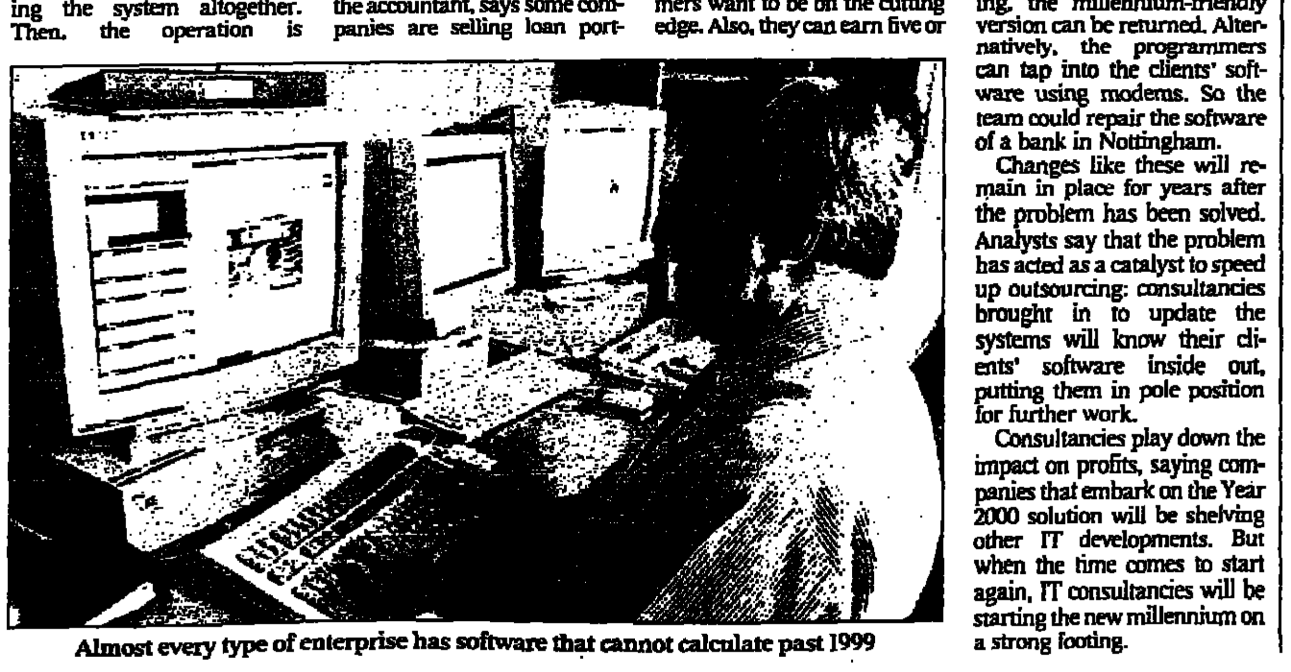
In the meantime, the stampede to IT consultants has begun. The problem now, says Ross Jobber, an IT analyst at UBS, lies in finding enough programmers to meet demand. He says: "The old programs are written in a language called Cobol, which few of today's programmers have learnt. It is only used for fixing old systems, whereas most programmers want to be on the cutting edge. Also, they can earn five or six times more learning lanuages like C++, and get much more interesting jobs."

A solution to this manpower shortage is emerging. While UK programmers are selective about which languages they pick up, those in India, the Philippines and Malaysia are far less choosy.

Andersen Consulting, a leading Year 2000 specialist, is setting up a "solution centre" of 1,000 programmers in the Philippines, dedicated to solving the problem for clients around the world. Distance is no object. Andersen will deliver clients' software to the base, and after a few months of round-the-clock troubleshooting, the millennium-friendly version can be returned. Alternatively, the programmers can tap into the clients' software using modems. So the team could repair the software of a bank in Nottingham.

Changes like these will remain in place for years after the problem has been solved. Analysts say that the problem has acted as a catalyst to speed up outsourcing: consultancies brought in to update the systems will know their clients' software inside out, putting them in pole position for further work.

Consultancies play down the impact on profits, saying companies that embark on the Year 2000 solution will be shelving other IT developments. But when the time comes to start again, IT consultancies will be starting the new millennium on a strong footing.



Almost every type of enterprise has software that cannot calculate past 1999

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	422	Allied Domecq†	426	- 1	6.9	18.1
625	500	Bulmer (HP)	591		2.8	
131	96	Burn Stewart	101		6.2	21.8
775	615	Glenmorangie A†	765		2.0	19.6
464	411	Grand Met†	428	+ 3	4.5	18.2
493	435	Guinness	470	+ 1	4.0	15.3
378	315	Highland Dist	377		2.7	17.6
195	150	Macallan-Glen	153		1.2	31.4
803	655	Matthew Clark†	700	- 6	4.3	29.6
141	93	Merydew Wt	121	- 5	4.6	..
2612½	1706¼	SA Breweries	1825	- 25	2.0	.

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3616¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3240¾	- 18¾	4.3	11.1
663	528	Abbey Nat	563	+ 3	4.8	10.8
385	315	Allied Irish	333	- 1	5.2	9.7
336	285	Aus. New Z	312	- 3	5.9	7.7
5243¾	3843¾	Bank America	5068¾	- 12½		
316	230	Bank Scotland	230½	- 3½	3.7	9.7
819	683	Barclays	804	+ 6½	4.0	10.5
488	413	Bk of Ireland†	432	+ 1	4.4	
482	379	Cater Allen†	418		9.0	12.4
5606¼	4051¼	Citicorp	5262½	- 12½	.	
392	318	Close Bros	331		3.4	14.7
£157¾	£131½	Commerzbk	£146½	+ 150	3.5	
1360	1065¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1081¼	+ 3¼	0.5	
3412½	2950	Deutsche Bk	3225	+ 27¼	2.4	
803¼	593¾	Espirito Santo	768¾		4.7	10.2
1607	1251	Fuji Bank Y	1275¼	+ 5	0.4	
472	339	Gerrard Nat	339		8.5	10.7
252	196	Hambros†	218	- 5	4.3	
1125	931	HSBC	1068	+ 29½	3.7	11.4
1098	930	HSBC HK	1042	+ 25	3.8	11.1
421	385	Irish Perm	404		3.1	11.1
177	143	King Shaxson†	149		7.6	12.9
455	415	Leopold J	418		6.0	14.6
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB	333	+ 3	2.9	14.7
640	586	Nat Aust Bk	592	- 10	7.4	7.5
711	605½	Nat West	626	+ 7	5.1	8.8
66	50	Rea Brothers	50		2.5	24.0
596	468½	Ryl Bk Scot	484	- 1½	4.4	10.7
1380	1185	Schroders	1300	+ 2	1.5	18.1
1128	890	Schroders N/V	995		2.0	13.8
122	99½	Singer & Fried	110		4.5	9.1
672	547	Stand Chart	670	+ 6	2.1	14.6
105	85½	Union	95		3.9	
£174¼	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£144¼	+ 162½	2.3	
329½	264	Westpac	272¼	- 3¼	5.2	
367	268	Wolmsr	358		4.5	.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
90	36	Abrdn Stk H-D	38			3.2
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	369	- 1		
839	702	Bass†	793	- 3½	3.7	17.1
70	40	Brk for the Bdr	40		5.2	10.5
177	161	Burtonwd Brwr	167		4.1	
126¼	92	City Centre Rest	113		2.5	21.3
627	463	Compass Grp	569	- 2	1.7	27.1
265	190	Eldridge P 'A'©†	252		2.4	23.2
540	413	Fuller Sm 'A'©†	530		2.2	18.1
636	546	Greenalls Grp	554	- 1	3.3	15.0
671	567¼	Greene King▼	593	- 1	3.3	
285	224	Grosvenor Inns	234	- 3	2.9	24.9
259	204	Groupe Chez Ger	226		1.4	22.9
357	299	Hardy Hansal	308		4.1	11.5
3475	3050	Hall J	3075		2.3	16.7
72	45	Inn Business	66	- 1	1.1	30.9
355	313	Mansfield†	326		2.3	15.9
353½	275	Marston Thmp†	276		3.3	11.3
673	535	Morland	588		2.6	17.8
147	118	My Kinda Town	141		2.7	13.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MINING

LEISURE & HOTELS

OIL & GAS

MEDIA

OTHER FINANCIAL

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

INDEX-LINKED

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Grofund Asset	204.60	216.50	- 2.73	0.15
Grofund Equity	268.50	285.60		1.90
Grofund Euro	263.90	279.30	- 2.90	0.57
Grofund Ext Bd	131.90	138.70		2.53
Grofund Gilt	77.64	80.04	+ 0.06	6.74
Grofund Japan	178.30	189.30	- 0.51	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	640.10	681.00	+ 1.22	2.56
General Inc	543.80	578.60	+ 1.00	2.56
UK Growth Acc	435.30	463.10	+ 0.60	2.75
UK Growth Inc	285.80	304.10	+ 0.40	2.75
Higher Inc Acc	768.70	817.80	+ 0.90	4.28
Higher Inc Inc	419.30	446.10	- 0.40	4.28
Gilt & Fxd Int Acc	308.70	320.30	- 0.10	5.61
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	93.67	98.93	- 0.05	5.61
Nth America	351.30	373.80	- 6.30	
Europe	352.50	375.00	- 3.30	0.39
Brit Ethical	86.38	91.90	- 0.23	2.75
Brit Friendly Acc	111.20	118.40	+ 0.20	4.93
Brit Friendly Inc	76.24	81.11	+ 0.09	4.93
Global Opps	101.80	108.40	- 0.50	0.10
Balanced Acc	61.70	65.64		2.73
Balanced Inc	58.37	62.10		2.73
Japan Acc	47.10	50.11	+ 0.09	
Pac Basin Acc	401.20	426.90	- 1.90	0.09
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	129.10	137.00†		7.12
High Inc Equity	177.10	189.40†		4.55
Worldwide Bond	288.40	305.80	+ 0.30	4.81
American Growth	353.20	377.60	- 5.00	0.20
Asian Pacific	336.30	359.70	- 2.00	0.19
Assets & Earnings	292.00	312.30	+ 0.10	2.65
Euro Capital Acc	179.60	192.10	- 0.20	0.82
Extra Inc	43.30	46.06†	+ 0.05	7.38
General	268.20	285.30	- 0.40	3.07
Global Opps	67.93	72.27	- 0.41	0.55
Japan	124.30	132.80	+ 0.20	
Managed Inc	47.42	50.45†	+ 0.02	4.61
Mastertrust	165.80	177.30	- 0.60	2.82
US Emerging Cos	202.50	215.40	- 3.60	
Ethical	79.06	84.11†	- 0.07	2.64
International	137.60	146.40	- 0.70	0.36
Dividend & Growth	65.88	70.00†	+ 0.01	4.38
Global Grwth & Sec	73.04	78.03	- 0.08	2.42
Latin America	65.06	69.21	- 1.05	
Capital Reserve	144.60	144.60		5.19
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2278.00	2384.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	56.96	59.16	- 0.59	0.52
Emerging Mkts	73.59	77.63	- 0.55	0.04
European	149.00	155.00	- 0.10	
Exempt	1072.60	1137.40†	- 0.75	1.64
Extra Income #	45.13	48.48†	- 0.09	6.83
Far East Emg Eco	131.50	138.70†	- 1.90	0.45
Fixed Interest #	25.01	26.01	- 0.03	9.27
Fund Inv Tst	147.90	155.30†	- 0.10	0.88
Japan	188.60	198.20	- 0.60	...
Latin American	59.06	61.56	- 0.56	0.80
Pacific	84.97	89.21	- 0.49	0.29
Property Share	67.15	70.49†	+ 0.10	2.49
UK Emerging Cos	71.86	77.42†	- 0.19	1.34
UK Growth	51.20	54.09	+ 0.16	2.17
Aber World Port #	79.42	81.05†	- 0.16	1.93
Ethical	75.23	78.24†	- 0.30	2.26
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.68	50.68†	- 0.03	7.41

For AEGON see Mallieson

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Rezidl Property #	95.87	102.30	..	5.05
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	87.94	93.31	- 0.04	2.41
Income Builder Inc	77.22	82.15†	+ 0.03	4.53
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	271.80	290.50	+ 2.60	3.20
Capital	480.30	513.40	+ 3.30	1.22
Balanced	784.60	838.70†	+ 6.00	2.48
Accumulator	1510.00	1614.00†	+ 11.00	1.93
Income Trusts				
American Income	59.15	63.130	- 0.08	2.53
High Income	440.50	470.90	+ 3.20	4.02
Equity Income	244.50	261.30†	+ 1.60	4.05
High Yield	266.00	284.30	+ 1.90	4.23
Govt Securities	33.82	35.690	- 0.82	6.12
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	195.30	208.50	- 0.70	0.06
European Growth	52.69	56.270	- 0.34	0.07
International	186.50	199.30†	+ 0.10	0.71
Japan	213.60	228.30†	- 0.80	..
Pacific	422.60	451.70†	- 1.60	...
Secs of America	537.50	572.70	- 02.60	0.14
Worldw Asset Val	55.88	59.730	- 0.05	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	606.10	647.90	+ 4.50	2.11
Conv & Gilt	47.92	51.220	+ 0.04	4.23
Smaller Cos	209.80	224.30†	+ 0.50	1.00
2nd Smaller Cos	200.00	213.70	+ 0.50	0.86
Recovery	163.00	174.20†	+ 0.20	1.52
Mid Mkt & City	162.80	173.90	- 0.70	0.18
Oseas Earnings	406.80	434.80†	+ 2.70	1.12
Technology	211.80	226.28	- 2.50	...
UK Special Sits	560.60	599.20	+ 0.50	1.05
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Calbrid Our Pens	113.10	117.50	...	3.04
Foundtn Pesl Pens	68.40	71.14	...	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0033				
Capital	78.90	83.97†	+ 0.67	1.04
International	66.35	70.56†	...	...
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	327.60	350.90	- 3.70	...
Bond	115.80	121.70†	- 0.20	6.86
Brit Smlr Cos	117.30	124.60	- 0.10	1.80
Conv & Gen #	70.12	74.60	- 0.11	5.27
Europe	276.20	293.00	- 1.80	0.59
Euro Smlr Cos	123.58	131.40	- 1.00	0.80
Income Grth	365.60	388.90†	- 1.30	4.44
Japan	330.50	351.50	- 0.10	
Latin American	84.62	90.02†	- 1.60	0.88
Pacific	115.60	123.00	- 0.90	1.20
UK Smlr Cos	59.61	63.41	- 0.05	1.25
Japan Fd	700.80	722.00	- 0.40	
Mngd Fd	195.90	208.10	- 0.30	2.87
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	354.00	374.40	..	0.94
Capital Grwth	121.90	128.90	..	2.57
Worldw Opps	213.60	225.90	...	0.92
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bus Inv Fd Inc	400.50	423.40	+ 1.20	2.64
European Bd Inc	95.71	98.54†	+ 0.12	5.66
Exempt	78.78	84.03	+ 0.22	3.07
Financial	94.16	100.70	- 0.20	2.84
500	504.40	551.00	- 0.90	2.43
General	312.00	334.40	+ 0.40	2.89
Property	240.60	258.10	...	5.58
Trustee	214.00	229.00†	+ 0.30	2.52
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.30	100.30†	. .	4.97
Distribution @ #	109.90	110.40†		6.30
Extra Income #	131.60	140.70	+ 0.10	4.96
Gilt & Fxd Int	57.82	59.85	- 0.04	7.99
Income #	560.60	599.50†	+ 0.90	4.33
Income Builder #	67.43	71.92	- 0.01	5.60
Intl Income	68.37	72.74†	- 0.66	2.75
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	136.00	145.10	+ 0.30	2.12
Leisure	171.50	183.40	- 0.40	0.74
Recovery	474.80	507.80	+ 1.10	2.78
Smlr Cos Inc	58.33	62.56	- 0.20	2.12
Special Sits	373.00	398.90	- 0.80	0.75
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	162.10	172.30	- 1.70	0.14
Aust Acc	271.00	289.20	- 4.40	1.87
Aust Inc	162.10	172.90†	- 2.70	1.87
Euro Grth Inc	185.90	198.70	- 1.80	0.49
-do- Accum	201.80	214.60	- 2.00	0.49
Japan & Gen Inc	155.70	164.80	+ 0.90	..
-do- Accum	157.50	165.70	+ 0.50	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	98.48	104.61†	- 0.67	2.43
American Portfolio	116.12	123.44	- 0.10	0.82
European Portfolio	132.14	139.92	- 0.60	0.63
High Income	51.37	51.48	- 0.04	7.36
Japanese Portfolio	70.46	74.87†		
Pacific Portfolio	154.87	165.64	- 0.84	1.42
UK Equity	94.41	100.80	+ 0.16	3.16
UK Equity & Bd	55.96	59.27	+ 0.06	6.45
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	733.96	749.00	+ 8.01	4.42
Fxd Int Sec	154.20	154.82	+ 0.27	9.34
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	717.63	728.47	- 13.94	4.57
Investment Acc	1327.70	1332.28	- 48.60	
Fixed Int Inc	124.47	124.97	- 0.06	9.20
Fixed Int Acc	221.72	222.60	- 0.12	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	37.94	38.94		3.21
Beck Bio-Tech	41.34	44.86†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	188.51	190.79†		0.45
City Fin Assets	77.23	81.10		1.81
City Fin America	107.04	112.40		
City Fin Inc	80.99	84.90		8.47
City Fin Japan	131.93	139.92		
Friars Hse Cap	182.83	192.49†		2.32
Friars Hse Inc	194.80	207.23		3.84
Buckley Wrld Grth	140.17	140.96		
J Sal Inc/Gth Inc	53.47	56.95†		3.42
[illegible]	56.87	57.92	+ 0.07	6.80
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	57.80	61.11	- 0.16	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Grwth	75.46	80.28	- 1.[illegible]	
Dragon Growth	72.84	77.84	- 0.46	0.37
Equity High Inc	86.40	92.70	+ 0.21	4.38
-do- Accum	123.06	131.80	+ 0.29	4.38
Extra Income Inc	26.43	27.41†	- 0.02	7.84
Extra Income Acc	28.28	29.70	- 0.02	7.84
European Grwth	61.79	65.50	- 0.04	0.94
Evergreen	32.22	34.45	- 0.12	
General Equity	98.76	104.78	+ 0.20	3.15
Japan Growth	52.82	56.30	+ 0.08	
Pacific Smlr Cos	61.66	65.12	+ 0.10	2.44
Pref Ldn Cos Inc	37.85	40.05	+ 0.07	1.47
-do- Accum	39.86	42.43	+ 0.01	1.47
Retirement Inc #	76.35	79.56	+ 0.02	6.10
Special Sits	46.26	49.21		2.31
UK & Overseas	57.59	61.10	- 0.16	0.77
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 808 000				
Balanced	67.07	69.06	+ 0.07	4.11
Capital	79.51	82.82	+ 0.05	2.97
High Income	50.86	52.97†	- 0.07	7.15
Top 50	53.79	56.50	+ 0.08	2.20
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT GRP LTD 0181 686 9818 PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	186.67	194.45	...	4.77
Long Gilt	42.03	43.74†	...	6.43
Monthly Inc Plus	48.80	50.83	...	8.01
Preference Share	47.29	49.26†	..	8.08
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.80	139.17†	...	6.13
Managed Fund	75.82	78.98	...	2.72
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	50.36	52.46	.	1.81
-do- Accum	59.53	62.01	..	1.81
UK & General	92.38	96.23	..	2.60
-do- Accum	119.82	124.81	..	2.60
UK Growth	183.72	191.37	..	1.47
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	211.31	220.11	..	0.66
Far Eastern Gth	137.71	143.45	..	0.02
Global Bond	82.40	85.83	..	5.78
Japan Growth	115.66	120.48	...	...
North Amer Gth	225.61	235.01	...	...
Oriental Growth	83.80	87.29	...	0.27
Worldwide Growth	73.00	76.75	...	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.65	92.65	..	5.18
Homeowner Fund	89.49	95.20	..	1.58
Dollar Fund	149.29	158.82	....	1.97
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	35.27	37.72	...	3.28
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	173.30	184.40	- 0.30	1.89
Income	68.37	72.73†	+ 0.03	4.97
European	73.44	78.13	- 0.21	0.78
Recovery	178.40	189.80	- 0.70	1.85
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 280 9404				
Equity Dist	939.20	954.20	...	3.53
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 698 370				
Fellowship Tst	107.90	114.70	+ 0.10	1.13
Income #	277.80	295.30	+ 0.70	4.29
-do- Accum #	726.50	772.30	+ 1.60	4.29
Smaller Cos	228.50	243.00†	...	0.89
-do- Accum	283.60	301.70†	...	0.89
Gth Portfolio	99.08	105.40	+ 0.10	1.61
High Inc Port #	80.31	85.43	+ 0.18	4.45
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 470 1894				
Euro Small Cos	1697.30	1759.50		...
Japan Small Cos	1334.80	1381.00		...
UK Small Cos	2140.30	2227.50	...	2.77
US Small Cos	2060.10	2115.50	...	0.98
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	227.20	239.20	.	3.07
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	160.50	170.70†	+ 0.30	1.98
UK High Inc Inc	168.60	179.30	...	3.81
-do- Accum	227.60	242.10	...	3.81
UK Pref & F I Inc	57.98	61.52†	- 0.05	6.01
Environmtl Opps	96.35	102.50		0.06
UK Smlr Cos #	66.50	70.74	- 0.13	0.80
Extra Income Inc	48.67	51.77	- 0.07	8.13
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 069 526				
American	168.10	178.00	- 2.20	0.45
Convertibles #	22.03	23.41†	- 0.03	5.98
Equity Income #	137.90	146.50†	+ 0.40	4.10
EuroFund	92.32	98.92	- 0.32	0.81
Financial	53.20	56.61	- 0.07	1.59
Growth & Inc #	279.90	297.40	+ 1.00	2.94
High Dist #	172.80	183.60	+ 0.50	4.30
International	437.70	465.10†	- 2.90	0.11
Int Cap Inc	102.80	109.70†	- 0.40	2.46
Latin American	32.39	34.41	- 0.45	...
Pacific	84.60	89.97	- 0.34	...
Pref High Inc	21.60	22.95†	- 0.01	7.84
Tokyo	231.90	245.90	- 1.70	...
UK Smaller Cos	256.10	272.10	- 0.10	1.10
Donedin Unit Trusts				
European Grwth	328.50	347.30	- 1.20	1.04
New Asia	238.10	253.80	- 0.40	0.23
Japan Growth	114.60	122.00	+ 0.10	..
Jap Smlr Co	487.80	519.80	- 3.80	...
Nth Amer	392.30	415.50†	- 5.60	0.70
UK Inc & Grth	238.50	255.60	..	2.80
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	113.70	121.60	- 1.76	1.27
Growth Acc	251.16	267.99	- 5.16	0.39
Income	584.36	624.98	- 0.77	6.23
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 378 7261				
Endurance Fd	222.40	236.60	...	0.84
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	90.13	94.87†	- 0.05	2.08

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775811				
American Growth	74.21	79.00	- 1.20	
-do- Accum	74.21	79.00	- 1.20	
Amer Smlr Cos	638.10	663.30	- 13.30	
-do- Accum	652.70	690.10	- 12.60	
Capital Tst	379.50	403.70	- 0.30	1.80
-do- Accum	564.40	599.80	- 0.40	1.80
Conti Smlr Cos	62.82	66.86†	+ 0.17	0.42
-do- Accum	66.83	71.12†	+ 0.18	0.42
Convertible	138.90	147.60†	- 0.10	3.65
-do- Accum	308.50	328.10†	- 0.20	3.65
Emerging Markets	70.48	75.30	- 0.65	0.30
-do- Accum	70.71	75.56	- 0.66	0.30
European	148.40	157.30	- 0.80	0.50
-do- Accum	187.20	198.80	- 0.70	0.50
Extra Income	288.70	309.00†	- 1.40	4.10
-do- Accum	582.00	619.10†	- 4.70	4.10
Financial	161.40	171.70	- 0.90	0.46
-do- Accum	171.50	182.40	- 0.90	0.46
Gilt Trust	64.13	68.12	- 0.03	6.79
-do- Accum	97.13	100.10		6.79
Health Fund Inc	254.00	270.30	- 4.80	
-do- Accum	253.60	270.30	- 4.80	
Income & Growth	219.80	233.80	+ 0.10	3.81
-do- Accum	348.30	370.40	+ 0.30	3.81
Intl Growth	431.70	460.00	- 3.10	
-do- Accum	472.40	503.40	- 3.40	
Japan & Gen	180.30	191.50	- 0.30	
-do- Accum	182.10	193.60	- 0.10	
Monthly Inc #	185.40	197.30†	- 2.70	4.80
Managed Port Inc	116.80	124.10	- 0.40	1.40
-do- Accum	127.20	135.70	- 0.40	1.40
Quarterly Income #	55.88	59.87	- 0.01	4.91
-do- Accum #	62.90	67.30		4.91
Recovery	362.80	387.80†	- 1.20	0.33
-do- Accum	429.60	457.80†	- 1.50	0.33
UK Growth	62.82	66.84	- 0.10	2.70
-do- Accum	68.29	72.59	- 0.11	2.70
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01722 715555 Enq 01722 718634				
FP American	58.11	61.61	- 0.60	0.36
FP Am Smlr Cos	196.40	208.80	- 2.40	
FP Asian Growth	281.10	300.00†	- 1.70	...
FP Australian	380.30	419.30	- 5.40	...
FP Equity Dist	432.40	459.60	+ 0.10	2.55
-do- Accum	558.20	610.14		2.55
FP Euro Gth	277.00	294.60	- 1.60	
-do- Accum	303.00	322.30	- 1.70	...
FP Intl Bond	80.10	82.84	- 0.08	4.44
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.70	40.23	- 0.20	0.14
-do- Accum	55.04	58.74	- 0.20	0.14
FP Pac Basin Acc	222.30	237.00	- 1.90	...
FP Income #	58.41	60.17†	+ 0.11	5.18
-do- Accum #	187.10	210.20	+ 0.40	5.18
FP Jap Smlr Cos	324.00	345.00	- 1.70	
FP Monthly Dist #	73.80	76.90†	+ 0.05	5.78
FP Stlg Deposit	100.20	100.20†		5.05
FP Tokyo	84.70	90.34	- 0.38	
FP UK Focus	40.57	43.50	- 0.10	2.38
FP UK Growth	187.70	200.20†	+ 0.20	2.41
-do- Accum	378.20	403.40	+ 0.40	2.41
Stewardship Dist	411.00	437.20	- 0.50	1.40
-do- Accum	515.30	548.10	- 0.70	1.40
Stewdship Inc Dist #	80.40	85.62	+ 0.03	4.82
-do- Accum #	109.00	115.80		4.82
N Am Stshp Dist	117.70	125.20†	- 2.10	0.47
-do- Accum	126.50	134.50	- 2.20	0.47
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Grwth Acc	124.50	132.40	- 1.10	1.05
Open Cap Gth Acc	128.80	137.20	- 0.90	0.19
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	117.30	124.70	- 0.80	2.97

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	193.84	205.84	- 0.58	1.09
European Value	94.48	100.81	- 0.44	1.36
-do- Accum	101.82	108.65	- 0.47	1.36
Japan Trust	236.35	251.10†	+ 0.35	
Japan Smlr Cos	240.30	256.79	- 1.70	
Pacific Smlr Cos	249.74	265.67	- 1.80	
North American	295.86	317.30†	- 3.82	
American Smaller	167.80	178.78	- 2.81	
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 610				
Income & Growth #	154.30	162.90	- 0.40	5.02
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	116.56	122.47	+ 0.40	2.13
Capital	196.40	209.80	- 0.12	1.31
Dollar	471.85	490.85	- 0.11	
Enterprise Gth	422.20	447.20	+ 1.42	1.40
European	276.30	293.53†	- 0.96	0.39
Far East	324.81	340.12	- 1.74	
[illegible]				
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	600.70	641.10†	+ 1.90	3.21
Capital	689.30	736.30	+ 1.50	2.36
High Income #	170.00	177.40†	+ 0.10	4.14
Active Funds-International				
American Grth	598.80	617.30	- 7.10	0.37
European Grth	148.30	152.70	- 0.30	0.41
Japan Grth	380.30	405.10	+ 1.30	...
Japan Smlr Cos	37.30	40.02	- 0.28	...
Asian	88.85	94.14	- 0.25	0.10
Sing & Malay Grth	86.37	91.11	- 0.31	
Hong Kong Grth	134.30	143.30	- 0.10	1.12
Global Bond	22.40	23.00†	- 0.01	5.32
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	150.00	158.00†	+ 0.40	3.07
Trade Index	120.00	128.30	- 0.10	2.10
THE FOOTSIE FUND	85.42	85.75†	+ 0.22	3.06
Index Funds-International				
American Index	287.00	300.10	- 2.00	1.11
Eurotrack 100	188.20	194.20	- 0.10	1.36
Japan Index	86.00	91.40	+ 0.05	0.07
Tiger Index	211.20	212.30	- 1.70	0.42
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	47.51	49.30	- 0.01	0.40
General Funds				
Managed Dist	87.40	93.00†	- 0.65	1.16
Managed	89.30	93.44†	- 0.26	1.16
[illegible]	97.65	101.30†	+ 0.40	3.11
UK Growth	67.85	70.07†	+ 0.08	1.79
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	84.62	87.34†	+ 0.12	5.87
Gilt & Fixed Int #	26.00	27.45†	- 0.07	8.23
UK Inc & Grth	45.62	47.63†	+ 0.14	3.16
UK Income #	358.40	372.60†	+ 1.00	4.30

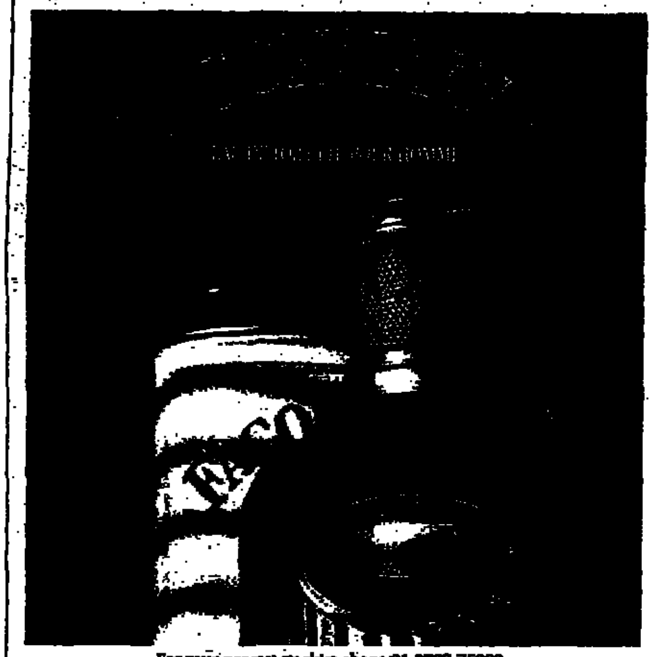
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	111.40	118.80	+ 0.70	
Master Trust	66.28	70.53†	- 1.06	1.34
-do- Accum	76.65	81.44	- 0.10	1.34
Millennium Inc	92.17	98.06	- 2.06	2.42
N American Grw	201.90	215.00†	- 3.20	
-do- Accum	227.40	244.60	- 3.40	
[illegible]	285.90	306.50	- 2.40	...
-do- Accum	197.30	208.70	- 0.50	
Pacific Basin	268.80	286.10	- 1.30	0.16
-do- Accum	286.40	304.70	- 1.50	0.16
[illegible]	302.70	322.30	- 1.90	1.53
-do- Accum	686.40	731.40	- 1.40	1.57
UK Eq Gth	157.40	167.20	- 1.00	2.02
UK Eq Inc	123.40	131.30	+ 0.30	4.21
UK Growth	100.80	107.80†	+ 0.10	2.05
-do- Accum	126.30	134.40	+ 0.30	2.05
Worldwide Bnd	356.20	378.00	- 5.40	
-do- Accum	523.10	556.70	- 7.30	
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
American	82.40	86.34†	- 0.80	0.40
[illegible]				
M & G SECURITIES				
Amer & General	480.70	509.30	- 5.10	0.44
-do- Accum	582.40	607.30	- 2.40	0.44
Asian Recovery	820.50	871.90	- 5.60	0.50
-do- Accum	655.50	698.40	- 0.40	0.50
Amer Smlr Cos	134.70	142.00†	- 3.80	
-do- Accum	148.00	157.20†	- 3.70	
Australasian	282.60	300.00	- 3.90	2.78
-do- Accum	281.90	299.30	- 3.70	2.78
Capital	866.40	921.91	+ 0.41	2.98
-do- Accum	1186.30	1260.50	+ 0.90	2.98
Charifund	736.30	736.00	- 0.00	6.06
-do- Accum	3684.50	3708.00	- 2.45	6.06
Commodity	492.10	499.70	- 4.60	0.44
-do- Accum	692.30	732.10	- 6.40	0.44
Compound Gth	1055.30	1120.60	+ 1.90	3.06
-do- Accum	1151.90	1217.40	+ 1.70	3.06
Corporate Bond	24.60	24.85†	- 0.05	7.70
Dividend	42.40	45.00		4.30
-do- Accum	187.90	198.50		4.30
Equity Income	340.40	360.00	- 6.10	5.36
-do- Accum	461.00	487.90	- 0.30	5.36
Euro & General	639.40	682.40†	- 1.70	0.89
-do- Accum	804.90	850.70†	- 1.90	0.89
Euro Dividend	79.80	84.50†	- 0.30	3.67
-do- Accum	100.50	106.30†	- 0.40	3.67
Extra Yield	447.80	472.10		3.16
-do- Accum	1472.10	1550.80	- 8.20	5.78
Far Eastern	381.40	403.30	- 2.80	0.97
-do- Accum	500.70	528.00	- 3.50	0.97
Fund of Inv Tsts	676.30	715.30	- 0.30	1.97
-do- Accum	1298.00	1372.70	- 0.50	1.97
General	86.40	90.20†	+ 0.10	3.59
-do- Accum	187.70	200.80†	+ 0.30	3.59
Gilt Income	60.50	63.50	- 0.08	7.30
-do- Accum	100.05	106.02	- 0.22	7.30
Gold	79.80	84.40†	- 0.80	1.70
-do- Accum	95.40	101.00†	- 1.00	1.70
High Income	21.10	22.90†		4.84
-do- Accum	132.90	140.80†	+ 0.10	4.94
Intl Growth	90.40	95.60	- 0.40	0.73
-do- Accum	158.10	168.50	- 0.60	0.73
International Inc	108.50	114.70	- 0.00	4.58
-do- Accum	168.90	178.00	- 0.60	4.58

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	99.75	102.00†	- 0.10	6.40
Income	99.91	104.10†	+ 0.20	2.40
Japan Growth	53.81	57.15†	- 0.05	
Managed	92.43	95.56†	+ 0.07	2.05
Money Market	93.00	95.31†	+ 0.40	4.86
North American	106.10	112.50†	- 1.10	0.40
Midland FS/ACS Unit Trust				
British	113.50	120.70†	+ 0.50	1.45
European Growth	124.30	131.40	+ 0.80	0.44
Gilt & Fixed Int	91.41	95.92†	- 0.05	5.42
Income	95.60	101.10†	+ 0.36	3.34
Japan Growth	53.63	56.06†	- 0.00	
Managed	79.84	81.74†	+ 0.07	2.03
Money Market	88.30	91.30†	+ 0.40	4.87
North American	95.00	101.00†	- 1.00	0.40
Midland Executive Pension Exempt Trust				
British	112.00	118.80†	+ 0.40	1.47
European Growth	121.70	128.50†	+ 0.80	
Gilt & Fixed Int	83.47	86.70†	- 0.00	5.56
Income	92.00	96.54†	+ 0.24	3.50
Japan Growth	54.84	56.72†	- 0.01	...
Managed	78.60	84.55†	+ 0.70	2.05
Money Market	78.80	84.80†	+ 0.02	4.11
North American	107.40	113.80†	- 1.10	0.37
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
International	14.85	15.81	...	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealing: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Grwth	440.90	469.00†	- 8.70	
European Gth Inc	580.50	632.10†	- 4.50	
-do- Accum	585.00	636.00†	- 8.80	
Intl Gwth	228.70	240.80	- 1.30	
UK Equity Inc	213.10	226.70	+ 0.40	3.48
Do. Accum	305.70	324.80	+ 0.80	3.48
UK Ind Tstr Inc	186.50	198.10	+ 0.40	2.54
-do- Accum	228.00	261.40	+ 0.50	2.54
US Eq Ind Tkr Inc	261.00	278.40	- 3.20	0.86
Japan Tracker	76.40	80.65	+ 0.72	
Asian Tracker	224.80	242.20	- 1.00	0.16
Managed Inc	184.00	196.20†	- 0.10	2.91
Managed Acc	200.90	214.10†	- 0.10	2.07
Deposit Inc	100.14	100.14	+ 0.00	5.35
Europe	284.30	303.20	+ 0.10	
[illegible]	208.60	225.00	- 0.40	2.48
High Income	20.56	21.81†		10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
American	180.30	189.50†	- 0.10	2.22
American Inc	87.25	88.44†	- 0.04	2.27
[illegible]	93.02	93.95†	- 0.00	7.80
-do- Inc	72.84	73.57†	- 0.07	7.80
American Growth	68.82	70.60	- 0.75	..
Equity Income #	100.30	102.60†	+ 0.10	4.75
European	87.17	92.70	- 0.41	0.56
Smaller Cos	90.72	95.16	- 0.64	1.19
W'wide Eqty	76.50	78.71	- 0.20	
Global Bond	40.87	45.12		3.76
UK Growth	108.50	111.40	- 0.10	1.73
Pacific Growth	120.30	123.60†	- 0.80	0.53
Japan Growth	103.50	105.10†	+ 0.80	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 691 090				
[illegible]	140.32	149.20†	+ 0.10	2.91
NBP UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
UK Growth	84.25	90.62†	+ 0.21	2.45

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc #	97.80	103.20	+ 0.40	3.91
Sector Value Grth	98.74	104.90	+ 0.30	2.26
Hy 5 Europe	97.80	102.80	+ 0.50	2.90
[illegible]	150.10	158.40	- 0.20	0.82
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Growth	194.90	208.50	- 3.90	..
Income #	203.72	216.71†	+ 0.35	4.46
UK Growth	82.49	87.75†	+ 0.08	1.95
Intl Growth	89.52	95.22†	- 0.41	0.45
Ecology	100.27	106.66	- 0.14	1.01
European	197.94	210.40†	- 0.75	...
Far Eastern	315.20	335.20	- 0.50	...
UK Special Sits	48.94	50.06	- 0.11	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Equity Growth	94.80	98.08	- 0.19	0.84
N Amer Growth	127.42	135.40	- 1.47	0.75
Special Sits Growth	26.36	28.04		1.90
UK Growth	448.15	481.24	+ 0.45	2.80
-do- Accum	597.23	635.35	+ 0.01	2.80
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
Balanced Fd #	1461.10	1483.20		2.80
Income #	1004.00	1020.30†		4.06
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	183.20	187.10†	...	3.62

For Manulife see Canada Life



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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7254				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	99.60	108.00†	- 0.10	7.87
Gilt Yield	117.80	124.10†	...	8.82
Global Income	229.80	244.50	- 0.90	3.65
High Yield	146.80	156.00†	+ 0.70	5.75
-do- Accum	477.10	507.80†	+ 2.30	5.75
Smlr Cos Div	80.12	85.95	+ 0.18	3.36
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	145.20	154.50	- 2.50	...
Asian Growth	341.80	363.70	- 1.90	0.23
-do- Accum	401.20	427.40	- 2.30	0.23
North American	101.90	108.40	- 1.49	0.24
European Special	123.20	131.10†	- 0.09	1.27
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
M & S Inv Ptflo	171.90	177.20†	- 0.20	2.59
-do- Accum	204.00	210.30†	- 0.30	2.59
UK Sel Ptflo	150.00	154.70†	+ 0.20	2.59
-do- Accum	180.80	186.50†	+ 0.30	2.59
UK 100 Cos	110.40	110.40	+ 0.30	2.93
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 342				
Managed Tst	73.34	78.02	..	3.68
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4846				
Intl Income	79.33	84.21†	- 0.37	4.05

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	143.40	152.50	+ 0.30	1.82
-do- Accum	158.90	168.90	+ 0.30	1.82
Technology	674.90	718.00	- 18.90	...
UK Blue Chip	85.76	90.68	+ 0.41	3.20
-do- Accum	97.86	104.10	+ 0.50	3.20
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0182 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4480				
Managed Tst	45.27	48.01	- 0.05	1.75
Cash Haven Inc	101.81	102.11†	+ 0.01	5.03
Cash Haven Acc	117.50	118.58†	+ 0.01	5.03
Dist Trust Inc	103.39	107.05†	- 0.05	6.48
Dist Trust Acc	115.77	119.87†	- 0.05	6.48
Global Growth	103.13	108.71†	- 0.80	1.44
Equity Inc	87.60	93.40†	+ 0.05	4.60
Equity	843.56	887.40	+ 2.61	2.43
European	265.79	275.43	- 0.06	0.77
High Income	90.50	96.20†	+ 0.06	5.43
Intl Gwth	217.53	231.41†	- 0.65	0.74
Intl Sml Co	96.42	102.67	- 0.38	0.05
Japanese	228.43	236.72	+ 1.11	
Nth Amer	225.40	239.84†	- 3.21	1.32
Pacific Mkts	115.37	119.55†	- 0.82	0.70
Premier Inc	47.77	49.71†	- 0.20	6.84
Sm Cos	110.23	117.27	- 0.37	1.72
Spec Sits	132.50	139.35†	+ 0.34	2.71
UK Growth	142.90	152.07	+ 0.37	2.24
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 407 5966				
HI Inc Inv Inc	80.40	84.64	- 0.21	3.94
Investment Tst	111.00	116.72	- 0.34	
UK Smaller Cos	107.04	112.55†	- 0.33	1.24
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
British Life	326.50	346.30	+ 0.30	3.59
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealing: 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Inc)	833.24	872.86	- 9.85	0.12
FA America (Acc)	742.08	788.52	- 11.54	0.12
FA UK Equity Inc	176.71	188.08	+ 0.21	
FA Japan	243.73	259.25	+ 0.87	
FA Major UK Cos	110.84	118.33†	- 0.08	2.04
FA Smlr UK Cos	398.39	422.98	+ 0.01	0.05
FA European	412.19	436.99	- 0.80	0.46
FA Amer Smlr Cos	56.97	61.03	- 0.08	
FA Asia	56.04	59.90	- 0.00	
FA Jap Smlr Cos	45.94	49.04	- 0.32	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	117.76	123.94	- 0.08	
UK Smlr Cos	114.71	120.74		
UK Income	116.24	122.35	+ 0.14	..
America	128.08	134.81	- 1.97	..
Japanese	52.97	56.80	+ 0.74	
European	132.95	139.94	- 0.20	
Gilt	98.57	103.75	- 0.13	
Deposit	89.40	94.20		
Managed	114.92	120.95	- 0.08	
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	114.44	120.45	- 0.09	
UK Smaller Cos	111.82	117.70		
UK Income	113.17	119.12	+ 0.13	
America	124.41	130.95	- 1.93	
Japanese	52.42	55.17	+ 0.13	
European	129.29	136.09	- 0.25	
Gilt	96.36	101.44	- 0.12	
Deposit	85.66	90.19		
Managed	107.15	112.78	- 0.08	..
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	288.40	305.20†	- 1.40	0.39
Wrwde Venture Inc	94.08	100.00	- 0.60	0.32
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
Equity Inc	428.00	455.50	- 3.00	2.47
-do- Accum	651.50	693.20	- 4.80	2.47
UK High Inc	208.50	217.60	- 1.20	2.56
-do- Accum	330.30	350.90	- 1.70	2.56
Europe Inc	464.50	495.90	- 4.40	0.54
Nth Amer Inc	354.00	374.90	- 4.40	
Global Inc	259.50	276.00	- 2.10	0.34
Global Acc	279.00	294.20	- 2.30	0.34
UK Spec Sits Inc	124.90	133.20	- 0.80	1.94
South East Asia	247.50	263.90	- 3.20	1.42
Cash Trust Inc	100.00	100.00	+ 0.10	5.05
UK Smlr Cos Inc	123.90	132.80		1.94
-do- Accum	128.90	137.40		1.94
Intl Bond Inc	95.04	100.90	- 0.10	5.30
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 610				
European	158.30	168.00†	- 1.00	0.71
Nth American	132.70	138.70†	- 1.15	..
Intl Bond & Cash	127.80	134.30	- 0.30	6.64
Pooled Pension (C)	225.00	241.90†		1.98
Smaller Cos	113.40	119.40	- 0.30	0.87
UK General #	156.00	164.20	- 0.30	2.70
Far Eastern	102.40	107.80	- 0.50	..
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	120.11		- 1.24	
Amer ‡	88.45		- 0.54	
European ‡	105.66		- 1.78	
Global Bond ‡	91.17		- 0.22	8.21
Investment Trust ‡	113.28		- 0.12	0.97
Preferential Income ‡	106.71	†	+ 0.05	4.92
Samurai ‡	80.55		- 0.34	..
Sterling Income ‡	100.34	†	+ 0.01	4.70
UK Growth ‡	187.40	..	+ 0.26	2.42
Tai Pan ‡	108.51		- 0.58	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	112.79	..	+ 0.03	2.36
UK Equity Inc ‡	108.67	†	- 0.05	4.09
Glob Grwth PEP	75.50	80.84	- 0.29	1.13
Pref Inc PEP #	99.49	105.50†	- 0.10	5.60
Inv Trust PEP	56.75	60.37	+ 0.06	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
American	448.28	475.20	- 0.30	
Capital	142.70	152.50	- 1.00	1.28
Cash	101.52	101.52	+ 0.01	3.22
European	158.60	167.80	- 2.20	0.42
Far Eastern	163.70	173.10	- 3.80	..
Growth	158.60	165.70†	- 1.30	1.09
Income #	133.50	141.20	- 0.70	5.08
Magnum	151.65	162.90†	- 1.10	1.31
Smith Secs	530.40	561.20	- 0.80	0.47
Throgmorton	177.20	188.80†	- 1.30	1.10
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01202 298 422				
[illegible]	57.35	61.53	- 0.03	7.00
Ethical	82.61	88.85	- 0.10	0.91
European Growth	81.73	86.65†	- 0.09	1.15
Income	58.95	64.11	+ 0.14	3.99
Intl Growth	112.40	119.59	- 0.40	1.26
Managed	92.20	98.24†	- 0.11	2.04
UK Growth	76.12	81.40	- 0.08	7.84
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	45.49	45.72	- 0.40	1.80
Global Advtg Acc	49.29	49.54	- 0.40	1.80
Income Advtg Inc	34.10	34.28†	- 0.20	3.44
Income Advtg Acc	39.69	39.90	- 0.20	3.44
UK Equity Gth Acc	93.96	95.62	- 0.20	1.21
Premier Inc Inc	49.46	51.03†	..	7.32
Premier Inc Acc	51.22	53.91	..	7.32
Managed Acc	60.30	64.02	- 0.50	1.48
UK Eq HI Inc Inc	39.15	41.50	- 0.20	4.18
UK Eq HI Inc Acc	51.26	54.34	- 0.20	4.18
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	73.90	78.62	- 0.50	2.25
UK Equity Gen Inc	53.47	56.82	- 0.40	2.25
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	31.65	33.47	...	6.66
Oseas Eq Co Acc	361.90	382.70	- 5.00	1.34
Nth American Acc	55.41	58.81	- 0.70	..
Pacific Basin	46.02	48.80	- 0.30	0.49
European Acc	59.67	63.40	- 0.90	0.71
Japan Acc	27.79	29.53	- 0.40	...
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD 0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	4.434	4.710	...	1.92
US Eqts (US$)	3.087	3.279	...	0.76
Far East Eqts (yen)	279.80	297.20	...	...
FT Europe	151.60	161.00	...	0.66
FT N Amer (US$)	2.345	2.490	..	0.28
FT Japan (yen)	244.60	259.70	...	...
FT Asia Ex Jap (US$)	2.806	2.981	..	0.56
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 226 3271				
American	503.90	534.00	- 4.80	...
British #	1250.30	1332.40	+ 3.10	3.65
Emerging Mkts	163.30	173.90	- 1.60	[illegible]
Euro Small Co	66.56	70.89	- 0.20	0.66
Japan	142.20	151.00	...	...
New Pacific	441.70	470.40†	- 3.30	1.03
-do- Accum	475.30	506.20	- 3.50	1.03
Inv Trust Acc	294.90	312.70	...	0.87
Mngd Equity	202.10	213.80†	- 0.50	1.58
Mngd Cash	95.60	95.60	+ 0.01	5.40
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
Equity	1038.00	1100.00	+ 3.00	1.56
North America	187.80	200.60	- 2.40	..
Far East	172.80	184.80	- 0.50	0.18
Worldw Bond	60.46	64.20	- 0.20	4.80
European	134.70	144.10	- 0.70	0.86
Equity Income #	101.90	108.00†	+ 0.10	4.16
Portfolio	107.20	114.70	+ 0.80	1.43
UK Leading Cos	73.36	78.25†	+ 0.30	2.70
High Inc Bond	50.43	50.44	- 0.08	8.83
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	76.80	82.24†	- 0.35	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD 0800 525 725				
[illegible] UT	23.81	25.33†	- 0.18	0.57
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	95.39	101.48	- 0.06	7.35
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	96.60	102.77	- 0.06	7.35
European	48.25	51.33†	- 0.02	0.40
High Income	34.48	36.66	+ 0.03	4.14
Japan	36.28	38.58†	+ 0.18	0.01
Managed Assets	139.15	148.06†	- 0.01	2.59
North American	42.22	44.92†	- 0.03	0.35
Smlr Co's Inc	36.53	38.87	+ 0.03	1.77
Smlr Co's Acc	39.80	42.35†	+ 0.04	1.77
UK Growth Inc	61.47	65.40†	+ 0.08	2.88
UK Growth Acc	69.26	73.89†	+ 0.09	2.88
UK Income	43.25	46.26†	+ 0.06	3.60
Worldwide Grth	40.68	43.51	- 0.17	0.01
Confederation				
Asian & Oceanic Ex	32.78	33.80	- 0.26	1.86
European Exempt	97.50	100.60	- 0.14	1.59
Japan Exempt	30.31	31.25	+ 0.19	0.09
US Exempt	91.82	94.67	- 1.40	1.37
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	57.82	61.61	- 0.25	..
Cap Protector Inc	45.23	48.18	+ 0.14	2.79
UK Income Inc	57.15	60.80	+ 0.17	3.20
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	34.57	36.69†	+ 0.01	6.89
Mngd High Yld Inc	86.21	91.71	+ 0.16	4.47
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	82.58	87.80	+ 0.19	3.29
UK Smaller Cos	40.39	42.97	+ 0.02	1.70
Pacific Gth Port	52.40	55.85	- 0.20	0.69
TSB UNIT TRUSTS 01264 346 794				
American	289.97	305.79	- 4.81	..
-do- Accum	318.29	335.81	- 5.30	..
Brit Growth	114.52	121.18	+ 0.51	2.00
-do- Accum	141.18	149.40	+ 0.64	2.00
European	127.57	134.99	- 0.47	...
-do- Accum	135.78	143.68	- 0.50	..
Extra Income	200.71	212.40	+ 0.43	4.16
-do- Accum	358.55	379.42	+ 0.76	4.16
Smaller Cos	88.80	94.07	- 0.21	0.84
-do- Accum	101.42	107.32	- 0.25	0.84
General	337.25	358.88†	+ 1.41	2.24
-do- Accum	720.83	762.78†	+ 3.00	2.24
Premier Income	50.37	52.47†	- 0.04	6.68
-do- Accum	125.12	130.33†	- 0.12	6.68
Income	356.46	377.21†	+ 1.12	3.80
-do- Accum	824.78	872.76†	+ 2.58	3.80
Pacific	441.74	467.45†	- 2.17	...
-do- Accum	464.16	491.10†	- 2.21	...
International	634.12	671.02	- 3.61	...
-do- Accum	835.53	884.16	- 5.03	..
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	45.37	47.10	- 0.01	5.99
European Growth	338.03	355.84	- 1.05	1.80
Exempt	625.01	664.30†	+ 1.90	3.50
Global Em Mkts	86.12	90.10	- 0.87	0.50
Japan Tst	80.15	83.92	+ 0.18	..
Little Dragons	98.80	104.80	- 0.46	...
Nth Amer Grth	279.11	292.20†	- 3.30	0.60
Oriental Income #	48.20	50.55	- 0.07	3.70
Preference	129.41	135.50	- 0.13	8.80
Tiger	304.26	318.72	- 0.31	..
UK Blue Chip	72.93	76.35	- 0.05	2.00
UK Growth	634.01	663.86	+ 1.10	1.00
UK High Yield #	106.40	113.50†	+ 0.20	6.10
UK Mid-Cap	315.94	330.62	- 0.21	1.90
UK Smlr Cos	131.62	137.81	- 1.77	0.80
UK Smlr Cos-Div #	91.59	95.90†	- 0.59	5.70
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
UK Equity Income #	109.56	116.57	+ 0.13	5.30
UK Equity Growth	98.23	104.50	+ 0.16	3.08
European	77.13	82.05	- 0.10	1.47
Nth American	87.26	92.83	- 1.05	0.24
Far Eastern	77.49	82.44	- 0.56	0.91
Money	71.10	71.10	+ 0.01	4.82
Fixed Interest #	78.62	83.64	- 0.07	7.63
Index Linked Gilt	70.49	74.99	- 0.09	1.41
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD 0345 959595				
Income Trust	103.76	103.76	- 0.09	7.23
UK Index Tracking @	124.79	124.79	+ 0.70	2.97
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	28.35	30.00	- 0.34	..
Pacific Basin	45.36	47.74	- 0.28	..
Global Bond (US$)	0.8894	0.8275	- 0.0003	..
Penny Share	45.94	48.35	- 0.05	...
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Challenger	95.95	98.94	..	2.40
Short Dtd Gilt	123.60	125.20	...	...
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7750	0.7852	..	..
Gilt Income	51.57	53.62†	...	6.00
Gilt Growth	76.54	79.09	...	
Sterling Bond	48.16	50.50	...	6.80
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	54.85	58.28	..	2.01
UK Stockmarket	97.35	103.50	+ 0.60	2.27
Corporate Bond	46.81	48.77	- 0.04	6.92

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

■ FILM

Genius or dictator? Jan De Bont defends his methods on the set of *Twister*

■ POP 1

Veteran Irish folk singer Norma Waterson *is the surprise* inclusion in the Mercury shortlist

THE TIMES ARTS

■ POP 2

Rage undimmed: Neil Young, the "godfather of grunge", plays a stormer of a set in Dublin

■ MUSIC

The late, great Tony Hancock inspires Dominic Muldowney's fine new concerto for trombone

CINEMA: Jan De Bont, hit director of *Speed* and the imminent *Twister*, talks to **Sheila Johnston**

White tornado cleaning up

As a young man at the Amsterdam Film Academy in the early Sixties, Jan De Bont and his fellow students would make a regular pilgrimage to Paris to sit at the feet of the *nouvelle vague* guru Jean-Luc Godard. "We met him many, many times; we were big fans of his," De Bont says.

Time passed and De Bont, now one of his country's most distinguished cinematographers, made the inevitable move to Hollywood in 1981, where he shot *Jewel of the Nile* and some of the *Die Hard* and *Lethal Weapon* pictures, as well as lighting Sharon Stone's intimate cavities in *Basic Instinct* for his compatriot Paul Verhoeven.

His first film as director, *Speed*, was one of the summer hits of 1994, and established Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock as major stars. But none of them could exactly be called Godardian.

"The studios are not as monolithic as you think," says De Bont, who has retained a thick Lowlands accent and an attachment to his home town: he is back in Amsterdam to conduct interviews and auditions for the main role, recently vacated by Keanu Reeves, in the sequel to *Speed* (which, he says, he is only directing because of a contractual obligation). "They give you plenty of freedom."

Freedom, that, is, for those who keep the tills ringing. And, even though *Speed* ended up earning more than $330 million worldwide, it still took De Bont a good two years to mount his next picture.

Columbia balked at the $120 million price tag on a project to remake the Godzilla monster movies, and it was eventually aborted in favour of *Twister*, an action thriller about a group of daredevil storm-chasers tracking a series of violent tornados. This has proved one of the early summer hits in America, scoring especially well in the mid-West, the heart of twister country. It should go down a storm in Britain, too. We might not have much in the way of tornadoes, but we do have a national obsession with the weather.

Twister is just one of a series of disaster movies on the horizon: close on its heels comes *Independence Day*, in which another hazard from the skies, in the shape of hostile aliens, lays waste to America. There are no fewer than four forthcoming volcano movies, all of which have landed in De Bont's in-tray (none impressed him). Also coming up is James Cameron's *Titanic*. And De Bont has just made a down-payment on a disaster script set in outer space called *Galileo's Wake*.

There is one large difference between these new catastrophes and classic Americans-in-peril movies of the 1970s such as *Earthquake* and *The Towering Inferno*. Then every hero — and every victim — was played by a major celebrity. But both *Twister* and *Independence Day* field second-division stars. In the latter the world is saved by such minor luminaries as Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman and Will Smith. The former has Bill Paxton, an actor with a long string of supporting parts to his credit, and Helen Hunt, an actress known in America for her girl-next-door looks and the lead role in a television comedy series.

> ❛ Overpaid superheroes are going out of style ❜

Part of the thinking behind this is pure economics: "Just the computer effects on *Twister* cost more than $20 million [of a total budget of at least $70 million], and they're only a small part of the movie," De Bont says. "People think technology gets cheaper, but it doesn't. The equipment does, but the talent gets a lot more expensive, because you have to have artists, painters, digital animators . . ." Certainly, the digital effects are one of *Twister*'s main attractions.

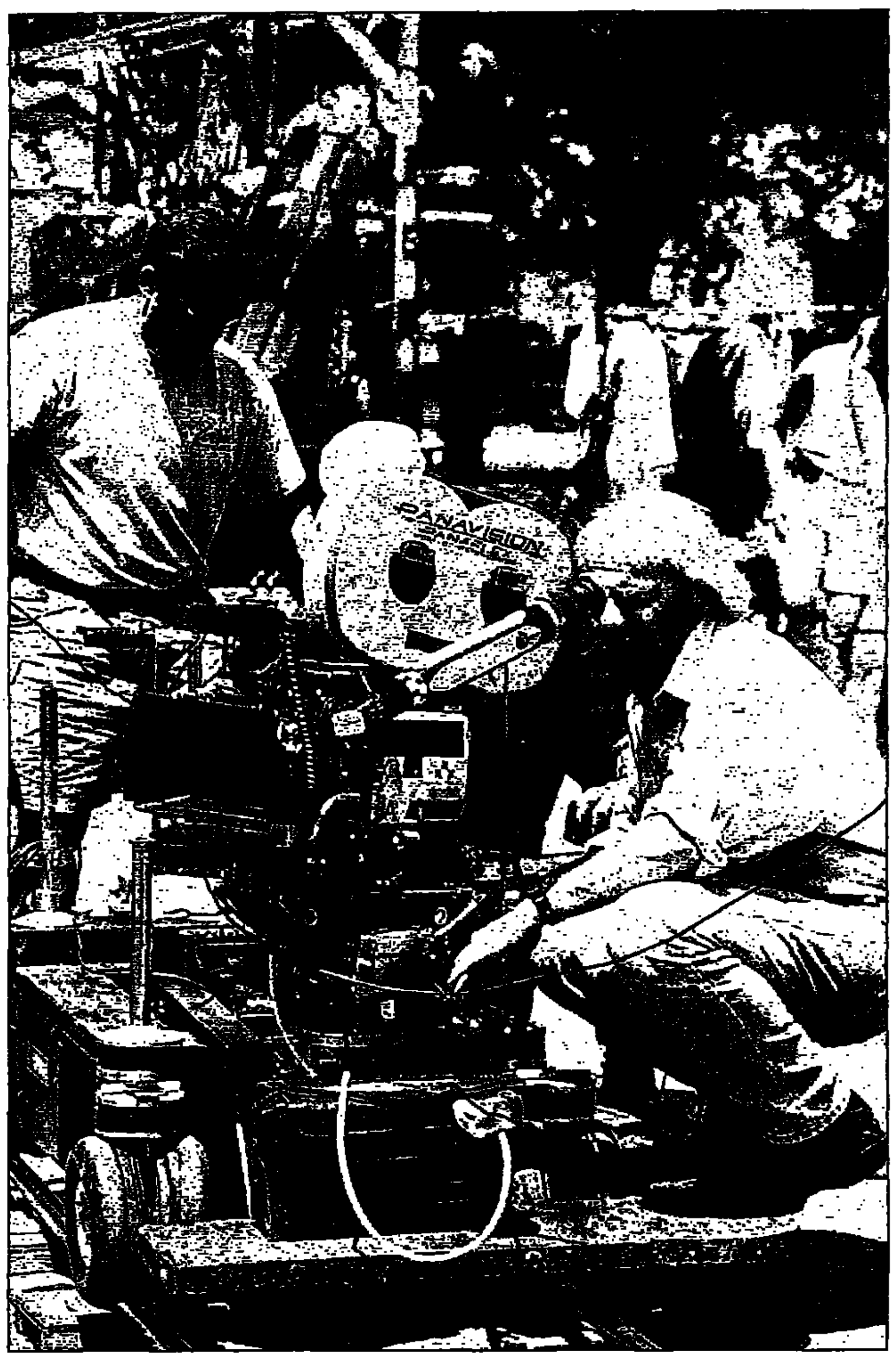
But there is another pressing reason for the low-star wattage. All those overpaid superheroes of the 1980s — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis — are going out of style. "Irwin Allen [the producer behind classic disaster films such as *The Poseidon Adventure*] was very dependent on stars. And I've worked with a lot of them in my life, but they're hard for the audience to relate to. Also," De Bont adds, more revealingly, "if you want them to do certain things, you have to argue with them all the time."

This brings us to the numerous rumours emanating from the *Twister* production, which suggest that the urbane, silver-haired director might just be a raving autocratic Hyde on location, prepared to sacrifice anything and anyone to his vision. His habit of pitching his actors into the very eye of the maelstrom caused Hunt to suffer repeated knocks, one of which reportedly left her with concussion. On another occasion, a scene was so brightly lit that she and Paxton were temporarily blinded, forcing them to wear protective glasses for several days.

Furthermore, arguments with the crew reportedly culminated in De Bont's pushing a camera assistant into the mud and a mass sympathy walkout led by his director of photography, Don Burgess. (Burgess's replacement, Jack Green, was also injured when a set collapsed on him towards the end of the shoot, requiring De Bont to take over the camera for the final few days.)

"You never want to put an actor in any danger," De Bont counters. "On all the movies I've ever worked on, nobody got hurt. Sure, they got bruised sometimes, but I would never let an actor do anything I wouldn't do." This is not altogether reassuring, coming from a man who was scalped by a lion in 1981 while shooting a film called *Roar*.

He is well aware that an A-list star, confronted with similar rigours, would instantly retire to his luxury Winnebago to call up his lawyer, agent and therapist. "When they started out they did it all, their early movies were always their best. Especially with Schwarzenegger, that was the great stuff, that was when he threw himself into a part. There has been a tendency over the past ten years or so to treat actors like pussycats: 'They're so sensitive, you have to be very careful.' I was getting a little fed up with that. We are all sensitive!"



Hollywood's darling Jan De Bont counts his box-office receipts in the hundreds of millions

De Bont's morning had been spent seeking out more untried talent for *Speed 2*, including the singer-turned-actor Jon Bon Jovi.

It is unlikely, however, that Reeves, a famously kamikaze actor who insisted on doing several of the stunts on *Speed* (and only weeks ago was in hospital after yet another motorcycle crash) left the sequel out of cold feet. "He's going through a difficult time in his life right now," says the outspoken director. "He doesn't want to grow up, he wants to stay young. He doesn't enjoy the success of *Speed*, and doesn't want to be an action hero. When he came to the opening of *Twister*, there were lots of photographers swarming around him and he was totally freaked out."

A Dutch actress called Maeve had given me an unauthorised preview of the script, which finds Jack Traven (the hero of the first *Speed*) in a tuxedo and embroiled in a discussion with the Sandra Bullock character about their relationship. But it will not be the same person played by Reeves.

"He's still called Jack in the script, because I'm not going to change the name until we cast the part," says De Bont, explaining that he likes to give each of his main actors his own customised name. "I did the same thing on *Twister*: I couldn't come up with a better name for Bill Paxton than . . . Bill. It makes the actors feel more comfortable, too." And it may even make up for some of the hard knocks.

● Twister *is released in Britain on Friday*

Affectionate portrait of a tragic clown

PROMS: Success for a concerto inspired by Tony Hancock's life

BBC PO/Tortelier
Albert Hall/Radio 3

FOR years Dominic Muldowney has been composing intelligent, quirky music in the decent semi-obscurity usually reserved for seriously modern composers. But with his new Trombone Concerto, commissioned by the BBC and premiered at the Proms on Monday, he may have hit the jackpot.

Not that the piece is exactly bursting with humalong tunes. It is a jagged, mocking and, towards the end, sad work. But that is the point. It is inspired by the comedian Tony Hancock — whose talent and career still evoke strong emotions, 28 years after his suicide in an Australian hotel.

From Hancock, Muldowney borrows two things: the mournful-clown personality; and the first six notes of the *Hancock's Half-Hour* theme tune, which nearly everyone over 40 can (approximately) whistle. The first gives the work its unsettling and nihilistic mood. The second provides part of the musical material; there are also nods at Schoenberg and the well-worn motif B-A-C-H. But Muldowney twists the perky *Half-Hour* triplet and the fateful "wrong note" through all manner of mind-boggling inversions.

At first the soloist, the virtuoso Swedish trombonist Christian Lindberg, leads the orchestra in a merry burlesque: a comic genius dispatching gags at full pelt, if you like. He sings as well as plays, he produces weird chords, he sends melodies soaring, Tommy Dorsey-style, in a corny vibrato.

But with the slow movement, doubts creep in. The trombone tries to be Hamlet, but is mocked by a trio of scornful flutes. He turns indignantly to silence them, and is mocked again. Eventually other members of the orchestra stand up, as if in sympathy with the pathetic protagonist.

That sets up the last movement: fast and jolly at first, but gradually disintegrating into the bathos of "offstage" crashes, until the soloist is left to play one last grunt in a spotlight that is then quickly extinguished. Too late we realise that this comic genius has been not joking, but drowning.

Lindberg perfectly caught that mixture of gloomy petulance and doomed ambition that Hancock invested in his most famous sketches. As he played the slow movement, trying to maintain some dignity against all odds, this listener at least was reminded of Hancock as the would-be heroic juror in his great skit on *Twelve Angry Men*: "Does Magna Carta mean nothing to you? Did she die in vain?"

Dominic Muldowney: quotes radio theme tune

Under Yan Pascal Tortelier's direction the excellent BBC Philharmonic (which had earlier frisked convincingly through the Albert Roussel's energetic ballet, *Bacchus et Ariadne*) played a lively Sid James to Lindberg's Hancock. I just hope that the success of this bizarre but affecting concerto doesn't give anybody the idea of writing a Harry Worth Symphony.

RICHARD MORRISON

● *This review appeared in later editions yesterday*

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Lining up against the wonderwall

David Sinclair, a Mercury Music Prize judge, discusses the shortlist announced yesterday (and explains why the Beatles missed out)

Ending weeks of speculation and nearly two months of detailed deliberation, the Mercury Music Prize shortlist for 1996 was announced at a press conference in London yesterday. This has been my third tour of duty as one of the ten judges of the competition, the music industry's equivalent of the Booker Prize, and, as before, it was a massive labour of love to whittle down the 150 entries of albums by British and Irish acts to a list of just ten titles. As always, too, there were some surprises and regrets along the way.

But when we met for a day of exhaustive discussion last week, I am sure none of the judges were surprised by our eventual decision to include **Oasis's** landmark album, *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* in the list (and those that regretted it concealed it pretty well). Despite the lukewarm reviews it received when it came out, this album has proved to be a watershed in British pop, and still sounds fresh and exciting after nine months of saturation exposure, the like of which has not been witnessed since the heyday of the Beatles.

However, in the battle of the Britpop bands it is now **Pulp** rather than last year's challengers, Blur, who have emerged as Oasis's main rival. Pulp's album, *Different Class*, was judged to be one of the most evocative and accomplished albums of the year, as much for its extraordinary insights into the English psyche as for its remarkable spread of original pop tunes.

It is not always as easy to pin down exactly what **Black Grape** are on about, but the vigour and ebullience of their music carried the day for *It's Great When You're Straight . . . Yeah*, while **Manic Street Preachers** won admiration for the unexpected maturity and sheer songwriting craft displayed on their album *Everything Must Go*.

A world away from the headline-grabbing Britpop bands is the heartwarming music of veteran folk chanteuse **Norma Waterson**. The effortless beauty of her adaptations of songs by the Grateful Dead, Elvis Costello, Billy Bragg and others on her self-titled debut was a revelation. So too was the stirring orchestral narrative of *The Beltane Fire* by **Peter Maxwell Davies**, an entry confidently steered on to the list by those judges with ears more keenly attuned to excellence in classical music than mine.

Courtney Pine's *Modern Day Jazz Stories*, an incendiary combination of virtuoso hard bop and hip hop, muscled its way on to the list by sheer force of musical will. Soul singer **Mark Morrison** likewise displayed an unassailable armoury of musical tricks on his debut *Return of the Mack*, while **Underworld's** *Second Toughest in the Infants* shone through in a year that produced a comparatively lacklustre batch of entries from the dance end of the market.

There will be much debate about the inclusion of **Help**, the charity album recorded in a single day by a multiplicity of British and Irish acts. Was it chosen strictly on musical merit or was this the first album in the history of the prize to be justified by extenuating circumstances? Since none of the judges could agree on which were the outstanding tracks (apart from Radiohead's transcendental *Lucky*), and which songs made up the ballast, it seems that this is, in fact, that rarest of pop beasts: a multi-artist compilation album with something for everyone.

Norma Waterson: nominated for her folk album of pop songs

For the second time, Richard Thompson ended up in (unofficial) 11th place, on this occasion for his album *you? me? us?* Quite what this prodigiously talented man must do to get into the final ten remains one of the eternal mysteries of the prize. The clarinet player and saxophonist John Surman also missed the final ten by a whisker with his mysterious ECM album *A Biography of the Rev Absalom Dawe*.

And, curiously, given the avowed intent of the prize to "celebrate all types of music *currently* being produced in *this* country" there was much anguished debate among the judged on the panel about the Beatles' *Anthology II*. Considering that the album's flagship track is *Real Love*, it seemed to me that, irrespective of timeliness, this one clearly fell short on the "musical merit" argument alone.

● *The winner of the Mercury Music Prize will be announced at a televised presentation dinner on September 10*

Enter the old rock dragon

Neil Young
The Point, Dublin

LAST year the so-called godfather of grunge, Neil Young, stopped off in Dublin to play a concert with that genre's troubled young prima donnas, Pearl Jam, as his backing band. On that occasion the Seattle acolytes were evidently dwarfed by the technical mastery and towering presence of the Canadian rock legend. This time *his normal band Crazy Horse, in* contrast, stood tall.

Poncho Sanpedro (rhythm guitar), Billy Talbot (bass) and Ralph Molina (drums) have been playing with Young for more years than they probably care to remember, and the intuitive understanding they have formed with their frontman was readily apparent.

They opened in a blaze of frenzied power-chord glory with *Hey Hey, My My*, not only a manifesto of rock and roll's first principles but also its very embodiment. Ironically, the Sex Pistols — who are portrayed as talismanic *Zeitgeist*-shapers in the song — were forced to cancel their scheduled reunion gig at this same venue last week because interest in ticket sales allegedly faded away. The song's combustion-before-decay sentiments are, it seems, more applicable these days to Kurt Cobain.

And yet the following two hours proved that no one burns as bright as Neil Young himself. When everyone else's spark has been all but extinguished, *he is still on fire*, raging against the dying of the light with a passion and commitment so intense as to leave the near-capacity audience awe-struck, feeling as though they had been transported to some kind of musical never-never land.

While most of the set drew on his fabled back catalogue, with the likes of *Pocahontas*, *Cortez The Killer* and *Danger Bird*, being dusted down and given the star treatment, Young also found room for a few tracks from his slightly below-par new album, *Broken Arrow*, with the cascading guitar-fest of *Slip Away* complemented by the heartstring-tugging ballad *Music Arcade*.

Although the solo acoustic interlude of *The Needle and the Damage Done*, *Long May You Run* and *Sugar Mountain* got the devoted crowd singing along, the highlight had to be the 13-minute full-blooded sonic assault of *Like a Hurricane*, in which a maniacal, almost demonic Young did things with his guitar that only Jimi Hendrix could possibly have grasped.

NICK KELLY

■ OPERA

Why we don't see more of Covent Garden's productions broadcast on television

■ POP

Limp, inept and strangely unprovocative, *Voyeurz* is barely credible as entertainment

THE TIMES ARTS

■ OFFER

Ibsen at special prices, and other unmissable ticket offers: see the Theatre Club panel below

■ TOMORROW

Washington goes to the theatre: read Benedict Nightingale's verdict on the RSC's new play

Broadcasting more opera on TV will not put an end to charges of elitism, says **Rodney Milnes**

DONALD COOPER

Angela Gheorghiu as Violetta in Richard Eyre's 1994 production of Verdi's *La traviata*, one of the few Covent Garden stagings of recent years to have been televised

Obstructed views from the box seat

So it's "accessibility" time once more in the great and ever-continuing debate about public subsidy to opera. That subsidy can be made to appear massive by those who want to dress it up as such, but is puny in European terms, and it is unfortunate that the debate should be continuing at a time when "European" is almost as dirty a word as "opera". The result — at Covent Garden at least — is seat prices few can afford, and up goes the very reasonable cry of taxpayers' money being used to subsidise the pleasures of the rich.

Suddenly comes the magic wand of "opera on television": transmit performances nationally on the small screen and everything will be all right. The Royal Opera House was encouraged to stress this politically correct principle in its application to the Arts Council Lottery Board (the chairman at the time was Peter Gummer, who is now chairman of the ROH).

Well, yes and no. It would be nice if there was as much opera on television here as there is in — ugh! — "Europe"; there is less now than there was, and it is no coincidence that the two zealously proselytical TV executives who fed us so much — Jeremy Isaacs and Dennis Marks — are now running London's opera houses. Those opera houses naturally want to show their wares to the widest possible audience; there are people at BBC2 and Channel 4 who want to televise opera, and do — the Channel 4-Glyndebourne tie-up is of great benefit to everyone.

But opera is as expensive to televise as it has always been to stage; it is a fearsomely labour-intensive activity. Budgets at the BBC in particular have been shrinking as fast as those of the performing companies; the chief casualty recently was *The Second Mrs Kong*, Birtwistle's and Glyndebourne's big success, which had to be pulled from the schedules at a late stage for budgetary reasons.

There is a creepily authoritarian tinge to some of the calls for mass-televising, as though it were as good for you as cod-liver oil. Compared to (sorry) Europe, opera is still a minority interest in the UK, and there's no reason for those of us who like it to force it down the throats of the public to the extent sometimes suggested. And there is an element of healthy union-bashing, as though only restrictive practices were preventing hours and hours of opera on the small screen. The idea recently proposed that performances should be televised with no extra fees to those performing or enabling the performance is distasteful — back, as in Mozart's day, to the musician as servant. All right, the extra million or lack of it isn't going to make much difference to Pavarotti, but a few extra quid will to a young singer, player or scene-shifter.

There are two sorts of television relay. A TV channel broadcasts a performance, a one-off. The cost can be up to £500,000, which is a lot of money, even to TV companies. Or there is the co-production, a three-way operation between opera, TV and video companies, which splits the costs: the video company ends up with the product, the TV company with first broadcast rights, the opera company with kudos and "accessibility" brownie points.

This accounts for some perceived imbalance: the Philips-Kirov project means we have seen a lot of opera from St Petersburg on BBC2. We have not seen the Covent Garden *Ring*, for the simple reason that there are already three complete *Rings* available commercially, and a good co-producer is hard to find. The recent ROH *Don Carlos* was a candidate ripe for transmission: but, sorry, television rights rested with the originating French company. Performances in anything other than the original language are hard to "sell" to video companies, but the joint ENO-RM Arts-BBC2 *Ariodante* has slipped through the net (Handel is rather big commercially this year). If you are into commercial co-production, problems proliferate, especially at a time when video companies are pulling in their horns: the market is buoyant in Japan, to some extent in America, less so on the Continent, much less so here.

Some pointers to the future. There is no union-led conspiracy to keep opera off our screens. Management prefers to negotiate conditions for broadcasting out of the public eye; lips are buttoned, but omens are distinctly promising (the words "on the point of breakthrough" have been heard). The ROH and the BBC, in particular, are keenly aware of their status as national public institutions with a duty to serve that public. Special arrangements are in hand to facilitate the non-commercial transmission of British works from British houses; even international singers' agents are co-operating, and there is goodwill all round. There is also speculative (as yet) talk of new methods of funding towards this end.

Is opera on the box a substitute? Obviously yes, to those who are prevented geographically or financially from attending performances. It is an invaluable learning aid, where titles come into their own. Some productions work better on TV than in the theatre — both the Chéreau and Kupfer *Rings* are examples — and the art of the video-TV director is a sadly under-appreciated one. It was depressing to read a review of several video releases in the national press last week in which not a single director was mentioned, as though performances get themselves on to the box by magic. And the technology gets better and better, with new high-definition tape and format, and digital sound.

All this is to ignore opera performances conceived for the medium of TV, even composed for it — Channel 4's efforts in the latter direction have not been too promising, but the art, *pace* Britten and *Owen Wingrave*, is still in its infancy. It is also to ignore the fact that all this politically correct chatter about accessibility of opera via television is a figleaf to cover the shameful problem of seat prices and resulting charges of elitism.

If, as Richard Morrison has demanded in these pages, the top seat price at Covent Garden were £60, as in Europe (sorry again), there would be no problem: everyone could go to the opera, there'd be plenty of it on television, and all would be well with the world. But if, as Gummer has suggested, stall seats are to cost £250 in the redeveloped house, the problem will return in spades, redoubled, to haunt him.

Cool moves, drum fever

JAZZ CONCERTS

On his last visit to London in 1992, Henry Threadgill, the composer/saxophonist, led a band, Very Very Circus, comprising two tubas, two guitars and French horn. His latest quintet, Make a Move — heard at the Queen Elizabeth Hall this week — features Brandon Ross, guitarist, Tony Cedras, accordionist/harmonium player, Karl Peters, electric bassist, and drummer Gerald Cleaver. Again, it's not the most conventional of jazz line-ups. But then Threadgill is on record as asserting: "Jazz is part of my vocabulary, but I don't do jazz specifically. I consider myself an international musician."

Having grown up in the Chicago of Muhal Richard Abrams's Association for the Advancement of Creative Music, and having allied himself early on with such musical innovators as Anthony Braxton and Joseph Jarman, Threadgill has always been a restless, questing individual, his music resisting all attempts to categorise it. One feature, however, is immediately apparent: his band, unlike many "jazz" players, spend almost all their time earnestly reading Threadgill's music, negotiating their way through it with a scrupulous care more frequently associated with "classical" musicians. Not that such categories mean anything to Threadgill: "All these divisions! If it's a great piece of music, it's a great piece of music."

The music thus embraces everything from multi-textured, impressionistic flute and harmonium dirges to searingly affecting pieces in which Threadgill's alto wails and soars over a wall of fearsomely energetic electronic sound underpinned by Cleaver's tumbling drums. The overall impression is of tremendous power, but without any of the swaggering virtuosity that generally accompanies it: his pieces do conform roughly to jazz's conventional head-solos-head pattern, but are sufficiently unpredictable and subtle to allow soloists few spaces for improvisation.

Such a modus operandi is intentional. Threadgill states: "You can't let musicians get too relaxed — you do something you know too well, you're not going to get excited. You'll do what you know." This approach undoubtedly renders his music admirably, uncompromisingly original, and produces, as on this occasion, concerts of extraordinary energy and complexity — the downside is that, instead of being unequivocally uplifted, it's all too easy to leave feeling you have been given a large dose of something Threadgill has decided will do you good.

For the past week, the South Bank has reverberated to *Rhythm Sticks 1996*, an eight-day celebration of percussion-based music embracing everything from gamelan to taiko, flamenco to drum 'n' bass, samba to jazz and African music. Closing the festival (also QEH) was **Power and the Beat**, featuring master drummers from Iran, the Pouria Vali Zoorkhaneh Club performing exercises rooted in military training, and a trio singing to the accompaniment of drumming and a shimmering stringed instrument, the tar.

Culture shock is the performers' chief hurdle in events like these, at least as far as communicating with the uninitiated is concerned, but the concert's opening attraction, a percussion trio chiefly utilising the tombak (a wooden "goblet" drum) and the daf (a frame drum), were immediately accessible to anyone with a pulse and a sense of rhythm. After powdering their hands and warming their drumskins to precisely the right tautness by exposing them to a single-bar electric fire, the trio launched into an hour of supple percussion.

A straightforward rhythm having been established on finger-cymbals, the drummers first consolidated it, then, just as jazz improvisers would have done, tossed the lead from player to player in an exuberant but delicate and precise display of unaffected virtuosity.

Less accessible were the movements, each specific to a particular item of military hardware from shield to sword, which accompanied the playing of a ceramic drum, chanting and the occasional ringing of a bell. They occupied most of the second half, and clearly should have conveyed dignity and poise: instead they conjured memories of the shuffling embarrassment evinced by unwilling participants in PE classes. Some traditions do not travel.

CHRIS PARKER

VISUAL ART: Textiles receive avant-garde treatment

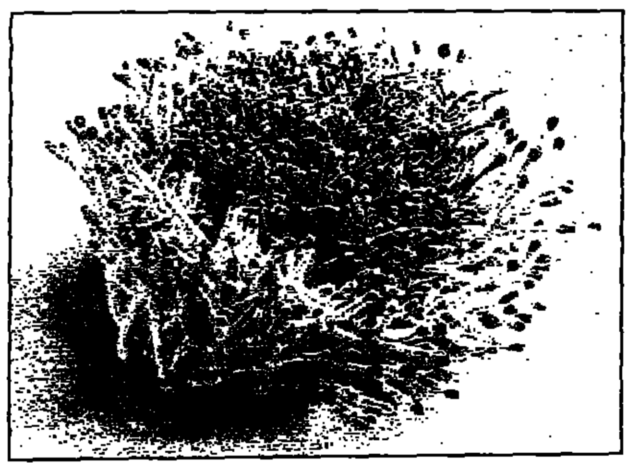
Not a loom in sight

The distinction between fine art and craft no longer exists in Under Construction at the Crafts Council Gallery, a selection of experimental work by seven contemporary textile makers. Led by Polish-born tapestry weaver Tadek Beutlich, they have abandoned the loom, conventional lace-making and traditional embroidery to parallel developments in contemporary art.

Beutlich, now 74, began to flout convention as a craftsman, incorporating found material and working in three dimensions more than 30 years ago, just as sculptors such as Joseph Beuys and Barry Flanagan were utilising textiles. But Beutlich's pioneering approach, hailed abroad, is only now breaking down barriers in Britain.

His *Figures on a Scaffolding* could be based on Dante's *Inferno* or the Nuremberg trials. Beutlich is not saying. But from bits of sisal and cotton wool, twisted and stretched and dyed the colour of earth, he has produced an extraordinary storytelling sculpture, its harrowing power heightened by its meagre materials.

Beutlich's creations began out of practical constraints. At the end of the war, only darning wool was available from Woolworths in black and white and grey. Later, in Spain, he improvised with esparto grass which he picked for nothing and brightly coloured wools from the local market, which he transformed into large, surrealistic flora. His latest pieces are smaller, due to the size of his studio in Kent.



Pollination by textile sculpture pioneer Tadek Beutlich

In contrast, one-time embroiderer and lace maker Michael Brennand-Wood has created an 18-foot abstract panel, *Field of Centres*, from rags inlaid into a painted wooden base, suggestive of the old-fashioned method of block printing.

The rags are torn sheets and pillowcases belonging to his grandmother, a worker in the textile industry, and the result is a lace-like effect on a grand scale, reflecting the former status of lace as a symbol of wealth and culture. Brennand-Wood, who has been studying the lace collections at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester, says he was attracted by the irregularities he found in lace patterns despite their apparent geometric order.

The ephemeral nature of bird tracks in the sand, changing tides and weather preoccupy Polly Binns, who stitches abstract pictures on painted linen; while classical architecture influenced textile printer Rushton Aust to explore three dimensions, making edgy, abstract shapes by wrapping intersecting wire in striped fabric. Former tapestry student Sally Freshwater has her fabric "fight" the aluminium framework over which it is stretched into the shape of a giant threepenny bit.

Triple Hood is the work of another former tapestry student turned conceptual artist, Italian-born Clio Padovani. The three hangman-style hoods, joined together and suspended on steel cable, stem from a questioning of identity, also the concern of former jeweller Caroline Broadhead, who devises garments which stand up disconcertingly on their own, dramatising their absent wearer.

The implied presence is made more real and fearful by the garment's corresponding fabric shadow.

ALISON BECKETT

- Under Construction: Exploring process in contemporary textiles, *runs until August 4 at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, Islington, London N1 (0171-278 7700)*

Even the plot has bare cheek

MUSICAL

Voyeurz
Whitehall

YOU are wearing a see-through PVC top with gold hearts just covering the nipples. Question: Are you on stage at the Whitehall?

Of course not, for this is a glamorous opening night and you are the glittering audience. This month's fashion colours, you may need to know, are black, white and gold. But will this month's hit show be *Voyeurz*? The front three rows of the stalls worked raucously to present it as an embryonic cult, shouting advice to Jane, the provocatively shy heroine, as she worries about her morals. Apart from this doubtfully disinterested rent-a-claque, the applause at the end was muted.

If it's nudes you are after, there are nine of them eventually, and some of the girls rub against each other, if you fancy the sight of that. Only the dancers strip down. The four singers of Fem 2 Fem strut about in fetish gear, as do the three actresses whose duty it is to push forward what I suppose we must call the story. But that's as far down as they go. Perhaps there are contractual reasons for this. No evidence from elsewhere suggests it might reflect a concern for taste.

On her virginal Virginian bed, Jane (Sally Anne Marsh) is sleeping fitfully. And no wonder, because an eight-foot blue crucifix is suspended over her head, representing what she has been told to dream about, while the silent dancers in white underclothes, slithering over her, represent her immediate needs.

"Is there something more for me?" she wonders next morning, in her little-girl voice — I could swear she spoke of her night of "dweams". Off she goes to New York, where Andi (Krysten Cummings) tries to pick her up on the train but manages only to give her the address of a nightclub. When Jane drops in there, she is desired by ruthless Eve (Natasha Kristie), looking like Snow White's wicked stepmother trying on one of Marie Antoinette's wigs.

The ensuing struggle for Jane's heart is ineptly told. Andi's character does a somersault and "I'm sorry" is what she mostly sings from now on. The music is a succession of loud songs, dialogue is minimal and almost every number ends in a blackout — a weirdly old-fashioned device.

The dancers jerk their bodies around, clutch their bellies as if at war with constipation, and press welcome hands against breasts, bums and between legs. Up on the scaffolding Fem 2 Fem canoodle, below them the dancers writhe in rubber sheets (quite watchable), crack whips (oh dear) and posture. That essentially explains the disappointment of this show, written and directed by Michael Lewis and Peter Rafelson. All those "dark secret fantasies and forbidden desires" we are invited to be voyeurs of, they aren't dark or secret or forbidden any longer. Pretending they still are, and without comedy or wit, this show may provoke the audience into clapping its energy, but not its content.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Crash the party

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

YOU are cordially invited to a wedding between two people you have never met, with the chance to toast the happy couple and then share a wedding breakfast with other total strangers. Still, look on the bright side — not only do you not have to provide a present, but the after-nuptials celebrations are a riot in *Joey & Gina's Wedding*. In this hilarious satire, taking place nightly at the Café Royal in London's West End, members of the audience are also guests at the wedding. After the ceremony you'll meet the family and, after the wedding breakfast (or, in this case, a three-course dinner) you'll be able to dance the night away to music played by a five-piece band.

Theatre Club members can bring a wedding party of their own, if they want, by buying as many tickets as they like for all performances until August 30 (except Saturdays) for just £25 (normally £36.50 to £39.50), including the wedding toast and breakfast. To book, RSVP by telephone (0171-287 4433) and quote your membership number

JOIN NOW

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to *The Theatre Club, together* with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. Every week, members can save money, meet the cast and directors of productions, or visit different theatres on exclusive weekend breaks. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage

OTHER SPECIALS

LONDON
Donmar Warehouse
July 30-31, Aug 2

● ENGLISH Touring Theatre presents a translation, by Kenneth McLeish, of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. Alexandra Gilbreath takes the title role in this powerful story of a woman ahead of her time who pays the ultimate price for her freedom. Top-priced tickets for only £12 (normally £16.50 and £18). Tel 0171-369 1732

North Lawn, Lincoln's Inn
Aug 3, 5

● TICKETS £8.50 (normally £10) to an outdoor performance of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Tel 0171-637 9041

BIRMINGHAM
MAC
Aug 14-17

● TICKETS £4.50 (normally £6) for *Black Orpheus*, an updated version of the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice. Tel 0121-4403838

ABERDEEN
His Majesty's Theatre
Aug 15-17

● TOP-PRICE dress circle or front stalls seats for £10.50 (normally £12.50) to the evening performances of *Millennium — Angels of Paris*, set in the closing days and hours of the 20th century, amid preparations for the greatest new year party the world has ever known and as a European superstate is about to come into being. Tel 01224 641122

YORK
Theatre Royal
July 30-Aug 2

● SAVE £2 on main stalls and dress circle seats (normally £9.75 to £10.75) for Fielding's rollicking *Tom Jones*. Tel 01904 623568

BANGOR
Theatr Gwynedd
July 31-Aug 3

● SAVE 20 per cent on tickets (normally £5.30 to £7.90) for Mappa Mundi theatre company's production of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Tel 01248 351708

BRIGHTON
Queen's Park Royal Spa
Aug 2-4

● TICKETS £3 (normally £5) to Peter McGarry's adaptation of Aristophanes' farce, *Lysistrata*. Buy your tickets at the door

PLYMOUTH
Theatre Royal
Aug 5

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £14.50) for Clarke Peters's *Unforgettable — The Nat King Cole Story*. Tel 01752 267222

■ CHOICE 1

Mark Elder conducts late Romantics at the Proms

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Dawn French leads the fun in Priestley's *When We Are Married*

VENUE: Now in preview at the Chichester Festival

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Joseph Fiennes stars in *Troilus and Cressida* at Stratford

VENUE: Opens tonight, Royal Shakespeare Theatre

■ THEATRE

Emily Mortimer stars in *The Lights*, a powerful look at the city of the near future

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

BBC PROMS 96 Mark Elder conducts the **BBC Symphony Orchestra**. Contrasting sounds of nature are evoked in Wagner's Overture and Venusberg Music from *Tannhäuser*, Dvořák's *In Nature's Realm* and, making its Proms debut, Bax's *Spring Fire*. In addition, the soprano Christine Brewer sings Strauss's *Four Last Songs*.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm

A SHROPSHIRE LAD: Mark Lawson presents a one-off performance by the Composers Ensemble and Mary Wiegold, soprano, of five new settings of A.E. Housman's poems by Simon Bainbridge, David Matthews, Michael Berkeley, Howard Skempton and Robin Holloway. With readings by Richard Pasco and Barbara Leigh-Hunt.
Bloomsbury, Gordon Street, WC1 (0171-388 8822). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

VELLINGER QUARTET Stephanie Gonley, violin, leads the popular ensemble — Harvey de Souza, violin, James Boyd, viola, and Sally Pendlebury, cello — in Haydn's String Quartet in E, Berg's Lyric Suite and Mendelssohn's Quartet in A minor.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

CHESTER: Today's concerts include a performance of Russian folksongs, as well as Bach, Poulenc and Mendelssohn by the all-girl **Elegy Choir of St Petersburg** (Molloy Hall, Chester College, 7.30pm). At 8pm, in the Wesley Methodist Church, the contemporary music group **Psappha** offers *Sound Carvings from the Ice Wall* by Piers Hellawell, *Taking Liberties* by John Cooney, *Into the Furnace* by Sally Beamish and *Fantasy Pieces* by Robin Holloway. Christopher Gayford conducts.
Festival box office (01244 320 700)

CHICHESTER: Dawn French, Leo McKern, Dora Bryan, Shirley Anne Field, Alison Steadman head a splendid cast for Priestley's evergreen social comedy **When We Are Married**. The director is Jude Kelly.
Festival, Oaklands Park (01243 781 312). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens July 30. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until August 17

OXFORD: The 12-strong Oxford Stage Company celebrates its tenth Shakespeare production under the artistic direction of John Retallack with a stylish, touring production of **Hamlet**. Directed by John Retallack and Karl James, with designs by Matthew Wright and lighting by Ben Ormerod.
Rose, The Newman Rooms, Rose Place, St Aldate's (01865 798 600). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm (except Fri, 8pm); mats Sat, 2.30pm (Thurs Aug 22, 2.30pm). Until August 24. Next in **Arundel** (01903 883 474). August 27-31

STRATFORD UPON AVON: Joseph Fiennes and Victoria Hamilton play the title roles in Ian Judge's production of **Troilus and Cressida**. Philip Voss and Richard McCabe are likely to be splendid as Ulysses and Thersites.
Royal Shakespeare, Waterside (01789 295 623). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then in rep Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

British Library Galleries: The Mythical Quest (0171-323 7111) . . . **Brunel Gallery**: Ottoman Art (0171-637 2388) . . . **Courtauld**: The Four Elements (0171-873 2526) . . . **Hayward**: Claes Oldenburg: an Anthology (0171-928 3144) . . . **Leighton House**: The Leighton Open. The Kensington and Chelsea Artists' Exhibition (0171-602 3316) . . . **National Gallery**: Degas (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Family Albums (0171-306 0056) . . . **The Orangery**: Hackney Contemporaries (0171-603 1123) . . . **Royal Academy**: 228th Summer Exhibition (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: Hans Hartung (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE ASPERN PAPERS**: Michael Redgrave's slightly old-fashioned version of the Henry James tale of literary skulduggery. With Hannah Gordon, Daniel J. Travanti, Moira Lister.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

☐ **THE CHOICE**: Eve Matheson plays the mother-to-be in Claire Luckham's moving and semi-autobiographical play about loving a Down's syndrome child. Judged Best New Play in the Martini TMA Awards. Dominic Hill directs.
Orange Tree, Clarence St, Richmond (0181-940 0141). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

☐ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)**: The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, pithy rough-handling of the Bard.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm, Mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm and Sun 4pm Ⓢ

☐ **FLESH AND BLOOD**: Third play in Philip Osment's Devon trilogy: long-suppressed jealousies on a remote farm. Mike Alfreds directs Method & Madness.
Lyric, King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. In rep. Final week. Ⓢ

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with David Ross as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Estelle Kohler as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **JOHN'S MAIDS**: Beth Wood's Thorndike Studio production, here as part of the Merton Arts Festival: imaginary account of Jean Genet hiring two actresses to play the desperate, hate-filled servants in *The Maids*.
Wimbledon Studio, 103 Broadway, SW19 (0181-542 6141). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until July 27

☐ **JULIUS CAESAR**: Christopher Benjamin plays the colossus, with John Nettles and Julian Glover (Brutus and Cassius) snapping at his heels in Peter Hall's production from last year's Stratford season.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat Thurs, 2pm. In rep Ⓢ

☐ **MARTIN GUERRE**: The latest Boublil & Schonberg musical, set to follow the success of *Les Mis* and *Miss Sai*. Declan Donnellan directs a cast led by Iain Glen and Juliette Caton in a tale based on the true 16th-century story of love, war and identity.
Prince Edward, Old Compton St, W1 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **PAINT YOUR WAGON**: First London revival of the Lerner and Loewe musical since 1953. Tony Selby in the Lee Marvin role: so how will he sing *Wandrin' Star*? Ian Talbot directs.
Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Previewing tonight and tomorrow, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Opens July 26, 8pm. Then in rep.

☐ **THIS LIME TREE BOWER**: Clumsy seduction and a shambolic crime feature in Conor McPherson's play, set in an Irish seaside town. Funny and touching.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 *(0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.*

☐ **TWELVE ANGRY MEN**: Kevin Whately, Timothy West, Peter Vaughan and nine excellent others in Reginald Rose's celebrated jury-room drama.
Comedy, Panton Street SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Until July 27

■ **WAR AND PEACE**: Shared Experience's treatment of Tolstoy's novel tells the story but forfeits the feel and context.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 6.30pm; mat Sat, midday. In rep Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: *Duchess (0171-494 5070)* . . . ◪ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083) . . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: *Fortune (0171-836 2238)*

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

LES APPRENTIS (15): Meandering adventures of French layabouts. Weak comedy by Pierre Salvadori, with François Cluzet and Guillaume Depardieu.
ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **MGM Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **HAPPY GILMORE** (12): Blue-collar guy hits the golf links. So-so vehicle for a grating television comic, Adam Sandler. Director, Dennis Dugan.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800-888 997) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

HUSTLER WHITE (18): Adventures of male hustlers on Santa Monica Boulevard. Rough-hewn and unappealing. Directors, Bruce LaBruce and Rick Castro.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

◆ **THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS** (15): Pleasant romantic comedy about mistaken identity, with Janeane Garofalo, Uma Thurman and Ben Chaplin. Director, Michael Lehmann.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE CONFESSIONAL** (15): Complex drama spun round identity, truth and Alfred Hitchcock; a dazzling cinema debut for theatre wizard Robert Lepage. With Lothaire Bluteau.
Renoir (0171-837 8402) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233)

◆ **EXECUTIVE DECISION** (15): Good, silly fun on a hijacked airliner, with Kurt Russell, Halle Berry, and a consignment of nerve gas.
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FARGO (18): A kidnapping goes haywire in the Midwest. Wonderful, humane crime thriller from Joel and Ethan Coen, with Frances McDormand and William H. Macy.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** (U): Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse, and perversely successful, mix of the cuddly and downbeat. Directors, Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

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◆ **MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND** (U): Kermit and Miss Piggy invade Stevenson's classic. Jolly addition to the Muppet movie saga, with Tim Curry. Director, Brian Henson.
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◆ **UP CLOSE & PERSONAL** (15): Love and clichés in a television newsroom. Paper-thin romantic drama with Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford. Director, Jon Avnet.
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THEATRE: Hell is other people in millennial New York; a classic shows its age

Big Apple crumbling

Everyone involved with Howard Korder's fine new play seems to be doing his or her bit to hasten the Royal Court's impending redevelopment. The seats have been ripped out and half of them temporarily placed in a rake on the stage. The ramshackle old auditorium is now the acting area, right up to the second circle, which doubles as a passing elevated train and a skyscraper's observation platform. And, in the penultimate scene, the actors start hammering off the plaster between the Court's old stalls and old bar, as if intent on burrowing beneath *Sloane Square before the diggers arrive.*

As it happens, this is highly appropriate, as the main character, Fred, has joined a gang of shady demolition men dismembering an antique welfare hotel. But then *The Lights* is an appropriate valedictory choice of play. After all, it tells you what it is like to survive in a city where you can't ride the subway without a thug threatening to kick in your face because you are staring at him or a baglady bawling out what she calls the national anthem of Venus in the hope you will give her the money to fly to the planet itself. Disintegration, social and personal, is the norm round here.

Korder says in the script that the setting is "a large city in the modern era" and presumably aims to hold up a mirror to everyone from Muscovites to Londoners. But his play's internal evidence, not to mention a glimpse of the Empire State Building through an apartment window, makes it clear he is writing about end-of-millennium New York. Where else do the pressures so obviously include "people, people, people, around you, beneath you, on top of you, thumping up there at two in the morning, and behind you, in your ear, through one inch of wall, as if right in the room"?

The speaker is Deirdre Harrison's Rose, a shop assistant who spends an evening getting drunk with the rich, corrupt city developer who has picked her up. But mostly the play involves her work colleague, *Emily Mortimer's fragile Lily*, and Lily's boyfriend, Lee Ross's cowed Fred. They quarrel, part, and make their ways through the great American Alphaville: he wrecked by his own folly and an assortment of sharks, she more or less raped by Korder's counterpart of Chekhov's Astrov, an ecologically sensitive but despairing planner from city hall.

The Lights
Royal Court

Ian Rickson's production crackles and bangs along, exuding none of that morbid glee in urban chaos that disfigures some plays about New York. What Korder evokes is a world where the decencies that still sporadically exist stand out like frontal horns in the post-unicorn era. *What chance for humanity* when life is a daily battle for bread, territory and the chance to believe one matters to anybody at all?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

"What chance for humanity when life is a daily battle for the chance to believe one matters to anybody at all?" Lee Ross and Emily Mortimer in Howard Korder's *The Lights*

Little life left in a great title

SEAN O'CASEY's 1923 *The Shadow of a Gunman* is a modest play. Lacking the scope of the other two thirds of his Dublin trilogy, *Shadow* is at least as content to entertain as to take swipes at the figure of the misanthropic, self-obsessed poet and his shifty, armed counterpart, the guerrilla.

Dublin is a different city these days. Although the Gate's *Shadow of a Gunman* marquee recently appeared in the background of news footage on a bomb scare, the number of places where a gunman on the run would be considered a romantic hero must have suffered serious decline since its heyday early this century.

Back then, when Donal Diviner (Barry Barnes) moves in to share a tenement room with Seumas Shields (Owen Roe) the whole house assumes he must be "on the run". Unscrupulous *Davoren happily exploits his* cachet as a killer to steal kisses from the fresh, local flower, Minnie Powell (Deirdre Molloy).

The Shadow of a Gunman
Gate, Dublin

Director Lynne Parker emphasises Minnie's lowly status as the object of the poet's empty, condescending affection, ("Very pretty, but very ignorant," he thinks to himself) at the expense of O'Casey's already less than appealing male heroes. Davoren, a haughty writer, impotent in his all-purpose antagonism, and Shields, a slobbering oaf turned pious through cowardice, were never quite so unattractive.

The problem here, of course, is that O'Casey's Minnie is written almost as nebulously as Davoren sees her, full of wide-eyed admiration, devoid of any twinkle of insight. This makes promot*ing the role a risky business. Molloy is* not quite comfortable in the part, principally because her coquettishness is maturely calculated, and she never seems ignorant enough.

The comic teaming of Des Keogh and Maureen Potter, two of the Dublin stage's most reliably popular codgers, as the flamboyantly illiterate Mr Gallogher and his accomplice in *malapropism, Mrs Gallogher*, suggest that there is little life left now in O'Casey's comic writing.

O'Casey confined the action to one tenement room, but Kathy Strachan's set also gives a sliver of the dangerously crimson exterior hallway. The ploy, like several other decisions in this creaky melodrama, comes across as a fairly transparent attempt to enliven O'Casey's raw material. Like much else here, the goal is reasonably well achieved, but without communicating anything very specific. Great title, all the same.

LUKE CLANCY

O'Casey's offering lacks the scope of the other plays in his Dublin trilogy and is content to entertain

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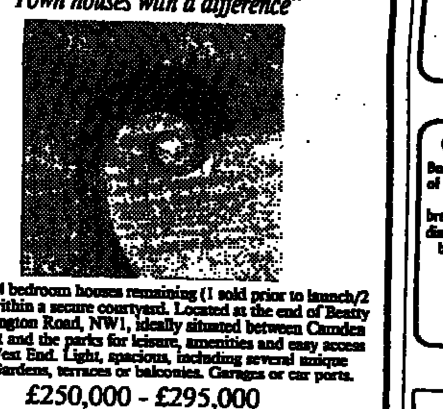

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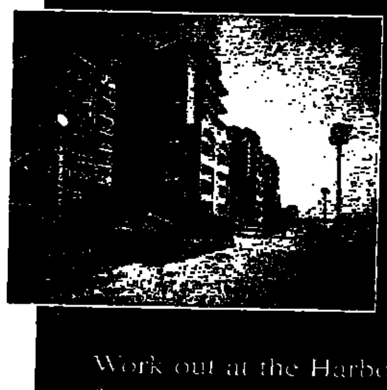

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Is property investment as safe as houses?

Rachel Kelly on why you should not put all of your nest egg in one basket

Every newspaper specialist has a "most-asked" question. For property writers, it is currently: "Should I invest in property?"

Encouraging signs in the market are tempting investors to consider property once again. More people are applying for home loans than at any time since September 1989. But an investing public is still cautious about putting money in bricks and mortar after the worst property recession since the war.

Yes, they may buy their own home, mindful of the tax breaks that still exist in the form of mortgage interest relief and the absence of capital gains tax on a final sale, plus the access to borrowing, but few small investors are confident about a second or third residential investment.

Yet the figures for investment yields from buying a property to let are currently encouraging and compare well with the yield from equities. Matthew Orr, a director of the West End stockbroking firm Killick & Co, says that average gross yields of 9 per cent are available from the residential property market, against only 4 per cent from the equity market.

Moreover, investors can expect both the income and the capital value of their property to grow at least in line with earnings and, hopefully, in line with the normal growth of the economy. This could even be bettered by astute purchasing, Mr Orr says.

Rents have increased as demand has outstripped supply. Extra demand has come from a market which has too few houses to sell. David Gillespie of Cluttons says: "With sales agreed, some vendors have rented until suitable houses are available."

Yet professional advisers caution against investing in property to let. Mr Orr says: "I would judge it to be unsuitable for anyone other than the very large investor."

The problem is that the sector is still so small. Though pension funds and the life funds of insurance companies used to own residential property in the past, since the war they have almost completely divested themselves of any property investments.

The lack of big players is important, says Yolande Barnes of Savills, because until the privately owned and rented residential sector expands and becomes more freely traded, its performance is likely to remain variable.

The reality is that yields of 9 per cent, though in theory achievable, are rare. "The costs of management, voids when properties are unlet and maintenance will generally account for 2 per cent, leaving a nevertheless respectable net yield of 7 per cent," Mr Orr says. Ms Barnes adds that yields vary hugely, from as much as 2 to 20 per cent net, depending on all the variables which affect rentals.

Most small-scale investors would be able to buy only one or two properties, tying up their capital. "Such an approach defies one of the basic laws of asset-based investment, which is to achieve a spread of risk," Mr Orr says. "The illiquidity of assets would also mean that the smaller investor cannot realise a part of the value which might be needed to meet a specific cash need."

In contrast, investing in equities brings tax breaks. A husband and wife can currently invest £18,000 into personal equity plans (PEPS) each year. This money is then tax free for the rest of their lives, a significant concession that should have prior call on any capital available for investment. Nor should investors ignore the fiscal advantages of investing in National Savings and Tessas.

Equity investors can also take advantage of the annual capital gains tax allowance, by which the capital appreciation on shares is tax free assuming you sell and buy back your shares within the tax year. Such "bed and breakfasting" provides flexibility unavailable to the property investor.

But be warned: Charlie Ellingworth of Property Vision points out: "Property does not go bust but companies can and do."

Both investments could be vulnerable given a future Labour government. "We are only just emerging from very damaging rent controls that have lasted for three decades," says Mr Orr. "It is to be hoped that any future Labour government will be more pragmatic in its approach, but it remains the case that residential property can be a more emotive issue than the equity market."

Equities are also potentially vulnerable. "A windfall profits tax on certain of the utilities is now seen as a *fait accompli*. There is also the issue of dividends," says Mr Orr. "Dividend controls have been tried in the past, and by and large they have not lasted for long; but Mr Lamont reduced the rate of advance corporation tax on dividends from 25 per cent to 20 per cent and thereby created a precedent which could lead to the abolition of ACT. This would have a very serious and damaging effect on the equity market, as it would reduce the gross yield by 20 to 3.2 per cent."

'One of the basic laws is to achieve a spread of risk'

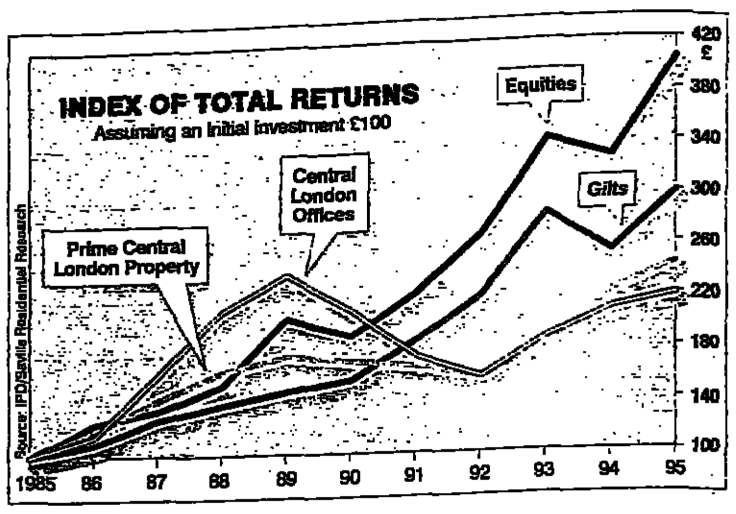
So, what should investors do? Mr Orr's advice is for a spread of risk. "Many people will already retain significant exposure to UK property through their own home, so therefore diversifying into equities is a sensible move."

Property investment makes sense for larger investors, with more money to spend and for those with no existing exposure. "Some exposure to property makes sense as part of the overall investment mix of a balanced portfolio," he says.

For those that do decide to invest in property, Ms Barnes reports that over the last decade one-bedroom flats in prime central London have achieved the highest average total returns, taking into account both the rental yield and the capital growth of the property, followed by three-bedroom houses. Large four-bedroom flats have given the worst performance, with average total returns of 9.7 per cent. Gross returns in 1995 were 12.2 per cent for flats and 13.1 per cent for houses. Following large capital value increases over 1994, gross total returns were even higher in 1995, averaging 25.1 per cent for flats and 22.7 per cent for houses.

The future could be very different if new vehicles for investing in property are created. The Government has already gone some way to answering some of the structural problems which dog property investment by the introduction of Housing Investment Trusts in the November 1995 Budget. HITs are exempt from capital gains tax and pay corporation tax on net rental income at the smaller companies rate. The trusts were set up to increase the availability of property to private renting and to encourage institutional investment.

But, as Ms Barnes points out, if you buy shares in property, then you destroy your spread of investments by only holding equities. Should the stock market crash, so will all your shares.



PETER TREVNOR

Belinda Hadden relaxes in one of the rooms of her inherited flat: "An income of £350 a week certainly seemed attractive"

TO SELL OR TO RENT? AN INHERITANCE DILEMMA

INHERITING a flat in Ebury Street, London SW1, was a mixed blessing for Belinda Hadden, a married writer in her thirties. "It left us with the interesting question of just what to do with an elegant but run-down one-bedroom flat with 25 years left on its underlease. The head-lease, with the Grosvenor Estates, expired five days later.

"We invited five agents to value the property. It soon became apparent that our options were to sell unmodernised, to sell modernised or to rent it out. Foxton's Peter Rollings said that with a 25-lease it was unmortgageable and therefore only of interest to cash buyers. He concluded that it was worth approximately £115,000 unmodernised and £150,000 modernised. Renting was no problem: it's division bell distance and close to Victoria Station: £350 per week. We didn't need the capital and the income seemed most attractive. We modernised it beautifully, with the ultimate intention of letting it, but retaining the option to sell. We had it replumbed and rewired; we put in a state-of-the-art kitchen and redecorated throughout. Now, just as the decorators are moving out, we've had another look at the mathematics.

"An income of £350 a week seemed attractive. . But supposing we were to be reasonably successful at renting, achieving 45 weeks per year. And supposing the agent's fee plus the odd bit of maintenance sets us back 20 per cent. That leaves £12,600 pa, or £315,000 over 25 years. But then you take off annual refurbishment costs, say £2,600. And then, of course, tax, at 50 per cent now but, with the prospect of a Labour government looming, allow up to 75 per cent. Suddenly it looks a whole heap less attractive. We could be left with less than £100,000. Which explains why we have now decided to sell a one-bed, beautifully modernised flat in Ebury Street."

PROPERTY

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Clockwise: the staircase at Cricket House, the house itself made famous by *To the Manor Born*, and Arundel Park

To the manor rented

Now you can live like a duchess or a baronet, says **Rachel Kelly**

A brace of beautiful houses is up for rent. The home of the late Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, in the grounds of Arundel Castle, ten miles from Chichester, is to be let for up to 15 years for £40,000 a year, while the chance to be "To the manor born" is available with the letting for the first time of the house which was made famous by the television series.

Cricket House, two miles from Chard in Somerset, is better known to many as Grantleigh Manor, the house where the fictional millionaire supermarket boss Richard DeVere, played by Peter Bowles, lived. The series which began in September 1979 was last shown on BBC television in 1990.

Its grand staircase was used in the scene in the series where Mr DeVere proposed to the formidable Audrey fforbes-Hamilton, played by Penelope Keith. Other interior scenes were shot elsewhere.

The house — surrounded by a 1,000-acre wildlife park with zebra and camel, leopards and ostrich, which is open to the public — was largely built in 1786 when its then owner, Admiral Hood, commissioned Sir John Soane, architect of the Bank of England, to enlarge Cricket Lodge.

In the 15th century the estate was owned by the Preston family. In 1775, the estate was acquired by Captain Alexander Hood, later Vice-Admiral and Baron Bridport. In 1814, the baronetcy passed to Samuel Hood whose wife Charlotte was a niece of Lord Nelson. Samuel Hood landscaped the estate by damming streams to create a chain of lakes, pulling down cottages, and diverting the roads.

The estate was sold in 1897 to the chocolate manufacturer Francis Fry, and then to the Hall family. The house was bought in 1966 by the Taylor family, who run the wildlife park and are now letting the house. It sleeps 12 and is surrounded by a 40-acre garden with terraces, manicured lawns, and flower beds, with a heated swimming pool in a separate wing. The house is for let at £3,000 a week through the holiday lettings agents Blandings.

'Country rentals are booming at the moment'

"The country rentals market is booming at the moment," says Layla Paterson of Blandings. "We are inundated with requests for renting and need more properties to let."

The Duchess of Norfolk's six-bedroom house was built between 1958 and 1962 by the architect Claud Phillimore as the dower house for the Duchess who died in December 1995. It is being let till it is required for family use again. The house is one of a number of important country houses built on estates since the war.

At Badminton, for instance, the present Duke of Beaufort enlarged the Cottage, a house in the village, where he lived before inheriting. Philip Jebb designed a handsome, Nash-inspired dower house for the Dowager Duchess of Hamilton at North Port, near Lennoxlove, in 1978 to 1979.

The house, set in 23 acres, was built because Arundel Castle, in which the family lived in the 1940s and 1950s, was thought to be too big and impractical. In addition to this the Duke had four daughters but no sons, and thus the title would be inherited by a cousin of the same generation.

The building has two flanking pavilions, one for staff and one for the Duchess's daughters. Inside, there is an air of grandeur thanks to the plaster vaults and recessed arches.

The panelled front door dates from 1750 and is the old front door from Norfolk House in St James's Square, salvaged when the house was sold and demolished in 1938. There is a top lit central staircase hall which rises the full height of the house.

The property is being let through the agents Clegg Kennedy Drew.

The agents Knight Frank and John D. Wood both confirm increased interest in their country lettings businesses.

Owners are choosing to let rather than sell, particularly those affected by Lloyd's losses who are hoping that extra rental income will help them weather the storm.

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The former home of A.A. Milne, which the children's author called the "prettiest little house in Chelsea" and which The Times reported on earlier this week, is for sale through John D. Wood in Chelsea (0171-352 1484).

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The British Cardiac Society has over 1000 members. It has a central London office with a small staff who work directly with the President and Officers to run the affairs of the organisation. Membership details are stored on a computer database and facility with standard office software is desirable, although there is technical expertise in-house. The post involves organising meetings at the headquarters and the annual meeting for the whole membership which takes place in various UK sites. Preference will be given to applicants with senior level experience, able to take minutes of meetings, organise a large conference and deal with the day to day problems of the membership.

Educated to at least 'A' level standard.

Salary: £20,000 (negotiable)

Written applications with CVs to be addressed to: The President, British Cardiac Society, 9 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5AH.

Closing date for applications: Monday 5th August 1996.

LEGAL LA CREME

CONVEYANCING SECRETARIES

Basic salaries of up to £23,000 + PRP and excellent benefits are currently available within a wide range of prestige legal firms to all experienced residential or commercial conveyancing secretaries. We have vacancies to suit 2nd jobbers, senior PA's as well as a range of straightforward 9.30/5.30 typing based roles. Further information can be obtained by calling ....

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LWP Rec Cons

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Capable and presentable person required to assist the Chambers Administrator in the smooth running of Chambers. This is a reception based position with the emphasis on welcoming visitors and answering the telephone, but you will be expected to assist in certain aspects of Chambers administration so the following skills are required: experience in all aspects of I.T, knowledge of book-keeping, pref. on Sage Financial Controller, experience in ordering supplies, general housekeeping and maintenance of faxes and copiers.

Salary negotiable

Applications and CV's to;
Louise Jennings, 2 Temple Gardens
Temple, London, EC4Y 9AY

Tel: 0171 680 6806 **La Crème de la Crème** *Fax: 0171 782 7586*

career moves

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Busy role for a dynamic, outgoing personality who has proven client liaison skills and at least 5 yrs reception exp. Superb presentation ess.

PA/SEC TV PRODUCTION CO MATERNITY COVER £16-18,000

A Calm disposition, excellent sec skills (S/H useful) and a prediliction for keeping meticulous systems is ess for this imp role in top TV Prod Co as Sec to the MD.

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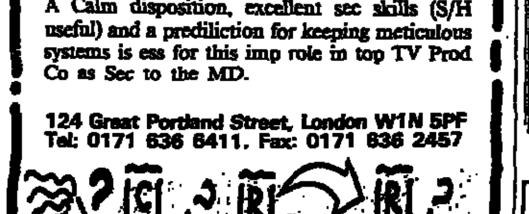
Tel: 0171 636 6411. Fax: 0171 636 2457



Executive PA
Salary from £17,000

This varied and responsible position requires a mature, experienced PA who wants complete involvement at a senior level, working for the Chairman and Managing Director.

We are ideally looking for an individual with the following skills:

- Complete discretion.
- Excellent organisation skills to cope effectively with a varied and fluctuating volume of work.
- Top level secretarial skills.
- Confidence to communicate in a well spoken manner with directors and clients.

If you are motivated and looking for a new challenge, please send your CV and hand witten covering letter to:

David Rugg
Christie Group plc
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H ONW

SECRETARY/PA.

MD of W1 Rainwear Importer needs brilliant secretary/PA. Word for Window, Word Perfect, shorthand and audio skills are a must. Applicant must have minimum 5 yrs experience at Director level. If you are a great organiser of both yourself and other people or can take whatever thrown at you without losing your sense of humour, there is a place just waiting for you here.

To apply, please forward full CV stating current salary to: Director, Savannah Co. Ltd, London Fashion Centre, Princess House, Suite 395, 50-80 Eastcastle Street, London W1N 7AP.

(NO AGENCIES PLEASE)

Academic Secretary

INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY QUEEN SQUARE

An efficient and well organised Academic Secretary is sought for the Gough-Cooper Department of Neurological Surgery to work in a team with the other secretaries (currently three) under the supervision of the PA to the Head of Department. Excellent audio-typing and word-processing skills are required for the post, which also involves responsibility for a variety of administrative duties.

Salary on the CRA4 scale (£14,029 - £17,165 pa inclusive), superannuable. Applications (CV and names of 2 referees) should be sent by 7 August 1996 to Miss E Bertram, Assistant Secretary (Personnel), Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG (Tel 0171 837 3611 Ext 4136; Fax 0171 278 5069), from whom further details are available.

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Sales Support Secretary/ Administrator

c£16K & benefits · London

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As personal secretary to the Regional Sales Managers, your responsibilities will include coordinating diaries, handling telephone enquiries and preparing correspondence, reports and presentation graphics. You will also be expected to help maintain the customer database, take minutes of meetings (even when they run late) and contribute to marketing/business development projects as required.

Educated to 'O' level standard in Maths and English, you must be an experienced secretary with audio/copy typing to 60wpm, a good working knowledge of word processor, spreadsheet and graphics software plus, ideally, shorthand to 80 wpm. Confident, motivated and extremely well organised you will also need an excellent telephone manner and a flexible approach to hours. Familiarity with medical matters, sales activities or conference organising would be a distinct advantage.

We ask a great deal, but we reward accordingly. In addition to stimulating and varied work, you can look forward to an attractive salary and benefits which include life assurance, pension scheme and, after a qualifying period, free BUPA.

BUPA promotes equality of opportunity.

To apply, please send your CV to: Gary Molloy, BUPA, 2nd Floor, Thames Side House, South Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4TL. Closing date for receipt of applications: 7th August. 1996.

BUPA

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Administration Co-ordinator

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Maidenhead **Excellent Salary & Big Company Benefits**

Hitachi Europe Ltd is part of the world renowned high-technology Hitachi group. Since 1989 its Research and Development Centre has spearheaded the future of the company's R & D. Its role is to co-ordinate research throughout Europe, with laboratories at Cambridge and Dublin Universities and design centres in Munich and Milan.

This interesting and varied role provides support to the Head of R & D as he travels widely, presenting and building relationships with Universities, European Government Departments, sponsors and research teams. You will co-ordinate all reports, legal agreements/contracts and patents ensuring essential deadlines are met. As you are liaising regularly with R & D Managers and University professors there will be the opportunity for travel and to meet with them. You will also be responsible for preparing presentations and PR material with innovation and style and organising conferences and meetings to exacting standards. A tall order but a rewarding one.

Preferably educated to degree level with 5 years' administration experience ideally gained in a legal, technical or academic environment, you should have meticulous attention to detail and knowledge of Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MacDraw or Claris. Experience of working in an international environment would be a distinct advantage as would an understanding or genuine interest in Japanese culture. Excellent communication skills, tact and a conscientious nature are also essential.

To discuss this excellent opportunity, in confidence, please call Julie Compton or Victoria Phillpot at PPS, 195 Euston Road, London NW1 2BN quoting reference number 560, on

0171 387 0818

SAMSUNG

Senior Receptionist

£ Excellent salary & package

Samsung Semiconductor Division has recently established a sales company in West London.

We now have a vacancy for a high calibre, experienced receptionist to work at our prestigious Head Office location.

This position will involve providing a comprehensive front-of-house reception service together with co-ordinating the Worldwide travel arrangements of our Senior Managers/Directors.

Applications are invited from candidates who have a minimum of 3 years reception experience obtained with a multinational company. Age range 25-35.

To apply please send your Curriculum Vitae with current salary details to:

The Personnel Department,
Samsung Semiconductor,
Great West House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex
TW8 9DQ

PROFESSIONAL P.A.

required for Chairman of West End Company in the finance sector. Must be computer literate with excellent shorthand and typing (100/60 wpm). No audio. Some basic book-keeping. Should be discreet and prepared to work long hours when necessary: 8 am start. Experience at senior level essential. Preferred age 26-40. Salary £23,000-£25,000 a.a.e.

Please Reply to Box No 7708

BOND STREET ART GALLERY

Requires secretary to work in small, busy team. S/hand or s/writing and good secretarial skills (WP6) necessary, as well as confident telephone manner. Interest in paintings and watercolours helpful but not essential.

Please telephone
0171 499 7411.

THE ROYAL FINE ART COMMISSION

Senior Secretary

The Royal Fine Art Commission is an independent government-funded organisation concerned with architecture, the built environment and art in public places. It wishes to appoint a Senior Secretary to act as a confidential personal secretary to the Commission's Chairman and to assist with general and other secretarial and office duties.

Applicants should be experienced, computer literate secretaries with good typing, shorthand and audio skills.

The salary is in the range from £13,158 to £16,810 and the starting point will depend on experience. Progress through the range is related to performance. 22 days holiday rising to 25 days from the second year onwards. Pension scheme.

Apply for application form to:

The Secretary,
Royal Fine Art Commission,
7 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4JU.
Telephone: 0171 839 6537

Closing date for applications:
Friday 23rd August 1996.

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

SENIOR ROLES - £25K

Top P.A. is sought by this professional Mayfair-based company. The role will appeal to experienced graduate P.A.s used to juggling a hectic diary with constant client contact and personal work. You will be used to working for a high profile boss who shuns publicity. Excellent secretarial skills (90/60)

Please call Portia Lineham on 0171 447 5517

Fantastic opportunity for experienced graduate recruiter to cover maternity leave starting A.S.A.P. Working for a top management consultancy you will be solely responsible for their graduate recruitment programme. Superb administrative and secretarial skills, maturity and confidence essential.

Please call Emma Dale on 0171 447 5504

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PA in Cosmetics c.£18,000

An exciting opportunity within this West-End based company, working for two friendly Directors. This is a buzzy, dynamic environment and there will be usual PA support, plus project work for the Financial Director. Word for *Windows, maturity and a self-starter are pre-requisites. This is an excellent* opportunity to become fully involved and create your own niche. To start asap.

Secretary c.£18,000

Major Plc in the Food industry sector require mature secretary with W4W, Excel, Powerpoint and Lotus 123 - they will cross on Quark Xpress for presentation work. Fast copy and audio typing skills of 65 wpm, together with a good education will secure an interview at this Victoria based firm. Finance background would ne ideal but is not essential.

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Contact Hours 9.00am - 5.30pm

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HOBStones

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To Legal Secretaries To Attend an Open Day Wednesday 24 July

from 8.30am to 7.00pm
All day drinks and light buffet

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Ask for John ***Tube: Moorgate, Liverpool St***

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Call/Fax - 0171 225 0804 Andrew/Sarah.

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0171 493 7001

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We are a medium-sized firm of solicitors in Chancery Lane. A vacancy has arisen for a secretary to work for a Senior Partner in our Corporate Department. Applicants must have at least two year's similar legal experience. Knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1 is desirable but not essential.

Applications to Jill Spicer
Rakinsons
27 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1NF
NO AGENCIES

MARKETING PA - CITY LAW FIRM
c.£20,000 pa

Marketing Director and small team need a confident administrator/secretary who enjoys organising events and juggling lots of balls!

Applicants must be educated to 'A' level standard, have secretarial qualifications and must have had 5 years' previous experience in a professional services environment.

Please send CVs to Nicola James, Personnel Officer, Cameron Markby Hewitt, Sceptre Court, 40 Tower Hill, London EC3M 4BB by Friday, 2nd August 1996.

PA TO HR DIRECTOR £18,000

International Communications Co. Based W6, recruiting PA for High Flying Human Resource Director. Use your excellent organisational & secretarial skills to spring board into Personnel. Advanced Word/Powerpoint/Excel needed to produce reports & presentation material. Lots of diary/travel/mtg arrangements. Minute taking exp/typ 60 wpm teamed with drive & ambition. Bens inc STL/Pen/Health.

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25K - SCOPE TO DEVELOP - Intelligent PA Sec sought by group of international business men to run office, make decisions, undertake research/own projects. German/languages useful.

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Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

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FIRST CLASS PA

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Call 0171-494 4466, let's talk.

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Please fax resume & letters of reference to:

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RECRUITMENT

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INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS

£25,000 Package

The dynamic Global Finance Director of this international Consultancy group is looking for an experienced PA who is keen on total involvement.

You will be liaising with high profile individuals and prestigious organisations on a daily basis therefore requiring a proven level of diplomacy and an ability to prioritise effectively in a fast moving environment.

A financial background would be useful as would any European language. Skills of 80 shorthand preferred and 60 wpm typing.

We would welcome applications from candidates immediately available.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

SEC/PA £16-18.5K (A.A.E.)

Senior level, well educated, mature Sec/PA required with at least 5 years experience and proven secretarial/office skills. Working to the Director and Administrator of a prestigious academic research unit, you must be able to organise us, get involved, take charge and generally revolutionise the office! Implementing and running efficient systems is vital. Understanding the work and your role will also be important as will taking on key responsibilities and maintaining confidentiality. Fast, accurate typing (WP5.1/W4W) and audio, minutes, accurate filing, editing work, library upkeep, varied and interesting workload. A real chance to make the job your own. Flexi-time, free lunch and other benefits, SW1 location. Yearly rolling contract.

Apply with CV, covering letter indicating current salary and two referees to the Deputy Secretary, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, LONDON SW1X 7EE. Closing date 1-8-96, interviews 7-8 August, full information pack upon shortlisting.

GROSVENOR

MARKETING ASSISTANT PUBLISHING C£15,000

Wonderful opportunity for a proactive graduate (or good A levels) with a minimum of 6+ months work experience to assist a busy Marketing Director. 30% secretarial duties (50wpm typing + W4Ws). Applicants should be articulate, organised, computer literate, possess the ability to expand the role and work with minimum supervision - a stepping stone for an hardworking self-starter.

GROSVENOR BUREAU
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
TEL: 0171 499 6566
FAX: 0171 493 6320

Publishing

Admin Secretary up to £12,000

An excellent opportunity exists for a General Admin Secretary within a young, progressive magazine publishers based in Westminster. You will have 50wpm typing, a minimum of 6 months relevant experience and a flexible, 'Muck-in' attitude. Great prospects for the right candidate.

MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES
THE RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

Call Miles Scribbling or Anna Pinnecaka on 0171 600 1331 or fax C.V.s to 0171 487 3018.

Are you a Modern Impressionist?!

Senior level secretary needed to work for this international art director in SW1.
Salary c£20,000 + Benefits.
If you are between 28 and 45, have 100wpm Shorthand and WP5.1 with a solid secretarial background.
Call Eleanor at B J Crawford's Rec. Cons
0171 935 9692.

PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

£20-25,000

An exciting and expanding global organisation is looking for 2 Executive Secretaries to support a Finance Director and a H.R. Director. Working on a one to one basis you will be completely responsible for coordinating their busy lives and be involved in extensive communication at all levels across the company. You will have previous experience as a senior PA and be happy working as part of a team. Shorthand, Powerpoint and Excel are essential.

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

£18,000 + Benefits

Based in stunning offices in SW1, this prestigious PR company requires a PA to support their dynamic Managing Director. You will be involved in all aspects of the business providing secretarial and administrative support. Along with good secretarial skills, you should have an outgoing and flexible disposition.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

Holdsworth Personnel

(Established 1986)

FIRST CLASS PA

Covent Garden

required for dynamic duo in fast moving financial services. Dealing with a corporate and senior executive client base, the ideal candidate must have experience at management level as well as being bright, intelligent, adaptable, smart and hard working.

Please apply in writing enclosing a recent passport photograph by 31.7.96 to:
Kate Gallagher, Holdsworth Personnel, Richmond House, 46 Bedford Street, Leamington Spa CV32 5DT.
An excellent remuneration package is offered to the successful applicant.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SOFAMAKERS DESIGNERS

We urgently need someone ambitious and enthusiastic with flair/knowledge of fabrics for our Knightsbridge showroom.

You will be bright, enjoy meeting people, be able to use your initiative and keen to join our small company to help us provide top quality service to match our furniture. Age from 25- some French useful.

Contact Hugh Garforth-Bles 0171 589 0322
Peter Dudgeon Ltd, Brompton Place
London, SW3 1QE

SENIOR SECRETARY/P.A.

Required for new position in small Insurance Broker's office in City. Suitable for recently qualified Graduate or similar - bilingual Spanish essential and shorthand preferred. Salary negotiable. Please reply with short letter and C.V. to Box No 7698

PA/SECRETARY

£20k neg. plus bonus

You will be based in Mayfair and involved in a demanding role for expanding Investment Advisory Company. Well organised, presentable and willing to help, coupled with W4W and spreadsheet skills are a prerequisite.
CVs to David Metcalfe, 9 Hill Street,
London W1X 7FB

A YEN FOR DOLLARS?

£23,000 + Benefits

Our Client, a prestigious American Investment Bank, has a number of Temp to Perm positions available in the fast moving areas of Mergers & Acquisitions, Corporate Finance and Sales & Trading.

You will have gained a breadth of corporate experience and will take pride in the quality of secretarial skills you are able to bring to the job. Your professionalism and ability to meet deadlines will allow you to thrive in these exciting and stimulating environments. Key attributes will include a flexible, team driven approach to your work with the ability to work one to one, combined with an aptitude for learning new skills.

If you have a good knowledge of Microsoft office, 50wpm and preferably shorthand, call now on:

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

DIRECTOR'S PA and OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY for CITY PR FIRM

We are very keen to appoint senior people to these two important positions. You must be enthusiastic with good *secretarial and organisational skills.*

Salary is negotiable and prospects are good.

Please apply *in writing only enclosing full* CV and *current* salary details to:
Hugh Higham, Focus Communications Group Ltd,
30 Coleman Street, London, EC2R 5AN.
Fax: 0171 600 1365
STRICTLY NO AGENCIES

DIRECTOR'S SEC

£20,000 + house allowance, o/t, bonuses etc

Senior Director of a huge Investment Bank requires a motivated, professional assistant to provide full sec and admin support. Liaising closely with his clients, organising entertainment, travel etc. 1st class skills essential.
Call Sarah Turnbull.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

£18,000 + full bank bens

Great opportunity for young enthusiastic administrators - assisting Banking Analysts with Reuters research, client liaison, travel/meeting arrangements etc. You must be confident, computer literate (Excel esp) and willing to learn.
Call Emily Aldrich.

Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Co Ltd
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WIMBLEDON VILLAGE

PA to Director

Executive Search

c£18,000

We are a dynamic executive search firm specialising in the high technology sector.

You are a highly motivated PA, skilled in Microsoft Office, demonstrating a flexible approach, excellent customer liaison and telephone skills.

A sense of humour and organisational ability are probably the most essential attributes required to support our busy team!

Please write with your CV to:
Marlar Bennetts International
4 Glencairn, 70 Ridgway, London SW19 4RA
Fax: 0181 946 5722

£££'s x 5

£25,000 PACKAGES

Do you want to earn as much money as you possibly can in a Secretarial/PA capacity? If so read on! I have 5 different Banks all recruiting Corporate Finance Secretaries. The positions are all demanding, extremely challenging and require overtime!! All roles necessitate MS Office and banking experience. Age 22-32.

Please contact Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

secretaries

TEAM SECS x 5

£18,000 + MS + BENS

Various challenging opportunities exist for second jobber secretaries (21 - 26) to work within some of London's most prestigious banks. Positions range from a secretarial and admin support role for a team of 7 which will include composing your own correspondence; to reporting to a MD and 3 Executives within an Investment Bank.

Please contact Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

secretaries

Let's hear it for Knightsbridge!

c£17,000 p.a.

This up-market Property Co needs a versatile PA Sec in their busiest dept. You will be mid/late 20s, have strong formal skills, and a 'muck-in' outlook to deal with a mix of responsibilities and enjoy this cheerful, Social team.

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Whitby and Bird Engineers
Personal Assistant to Partner

This new position encompasses full PA duties, involving detailed diary management, travel arrangements, liaison with clients and organisation of extra-curricular activities. Would suit a mature, experienced and energetic personality with previous relevant experience. Good knowledge of windows based wp and database packages essential.

Applications in writing with CV and current salary to Chrissie Little, Whitby and Bird, 53-54 Newman Street, London W1P 4DA.

A young successful growing company of interior designers are looking for the following to join their exclusive showroom situated in Knightsbridge.

SHOWROOM MANAGERESS

You would be expected to work on your own initiative, where client liaison is vital, the ability to be calm under pressure preferably with knowledge of MS/Office.

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Assistant designer who would be capable of working to deadlines with good organisation skills. Client liaison imperative and good presentation is vital.

WINDOW/MERCHANDISE DESIGNER

This applicant would need to be creative with articulate ideas and be able to take control of the periodical style to the showroom.

We pay excellent salaries according to skills and experience. If you are interested in any of the above positions please fax your CV's to 0171 589 2009.

You are a **SENIOR PA** looking for a challenging job for Group CEO in South Kensington.

You will have worked at senior level for at least five years, have an interest in international affairs, successfully "organised" the office, have excellent PA/secretarial/PC skills and be competent in Microsoft Office.

We are a successful international management consultancy, reward high-performers and have a hectic but friendly small office.

Please reply with detailed CV to:

Mrs C B Lyons
InterMatrix Ltd
4 Cromwell Place
London SW7 2JE

SECRETARY/RESEARCH ASSISTANT

required for senior diplomatic staff. Well-educated (A-levels or Graduate), adaptable person, to work as member of a team. Excellent secretarial and computer/word processing skills and a high standard of written and spoken English are essential.

Please apply, *in writing only*, not later than 31st July, sending comprehensive CV and covering letter stating current salary to: The Embassy of Japan, Dept (P), 101-104, Piccadilly, London, W1V 9FN.

Busy Chairman Seeks PA - c.£18,000, Henley.

Absurdly well-organised PA needed to run large international property group's new small HQ in Henley, and to organise chairman's schedule. Some travel required, so flexibility a must. Good secretarial skills essential, spreadsheet experience desirable. Salary dependent on age/experience.

Please write with full CV to John Spence, Chairman, IEM Inc, Box No 7723 or fax it on 0181 875 9240.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No:- ____

c/o TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553,
VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

DESIGN £18-20K

Production co-ordinator for leading brand & identity designers. Assist with research, sourcing, chasing artwork, dealing with printers, suppliers & clients. You'll need to enjoy working to deadlines, be on the ball & a step ahead all the time. A good working knowledge of print production & Mac skills ess. 50 wpm typ.

PUBLIC RELATIONS £17k

Prepare press releases, liaise with journalists, assist with conference organising, & extensive travel plans. You will need to be highly organised, hard working & have good sec skills. W4W & Powerpoint. Typ 60wpm. 'City Type' sec exp & A levels pref.

0171 287 2050.

CLUTTONS

A CAREER IN PROPERTY

Enthusiastic secretaries urgently required to join two exciting new Residential Sales and Lettings teams in Central London. Applicants must be organised and intelligent, with initiative, common sense and a working knowledge of WP 5.1. A pleasant telephone manner is essential. An ideal opportunity to learn about the property market as part of a team. salary according to age and experience.

Apply in writing enclosing full CV by Thursday August 1st to Tom Marshall, 45 Berkeley Square, London W1X 5DB

Cluttons is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Multilingual Crème

Tel: 0171 680 6806
Language Opportunities

Fax: 0171 782 7586
Language Opportunities

MAINE-TUCKER

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fluent Spanish
SPANISH TREASURE...

c£20,000 + Mortg Sub + Mega Bonus + Med + Pension + extra hols + STL + Gym + Lunch +++

Salsa into these modern offices with this colourful fun Latin American banking team where the temperature of business is hot but you stay cool. Not surprising really because you are only spending 30% of your time on the secretarial bit. The rest? Well, you are working on a one-to-one basis with one dynamic MD who needs you to be his chief organiser - can you handle international travel arrangements? Talk to Peru daily? Good. Read on for more good news. No shorthand or banking experience necessary just good typing (55+) and good Spanish and some of that Spanish gold could be yours!

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 [illegible]

BI-LINGUAL PA/SECRETARY

A small progressive City based financial requires a PA/Secretary for their Chairman. The applicant with French and/or German should have experience within Corporate Finance or Banking sector.

Must be cheerful, friendly, strong team player, with flexible approach and quick response to urgent tasks. This is a challenging, interesting and busy position.

Excellent renumeration package offered for the right person.

Please apply with detailed CV and current renumeration level.

Please Reply to Box No 7684, c/o Times Newspapers, PO Box 3553, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9GA

On Your Marks....

£ Excellent

This fast growing European association has several temp-to-perm vacancies for non-graduate language secretaries. French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, German, Greek. If you thrive on the buzz of a truly cosmopolitan team role & enjoy helping a busy group to organise their fast-moving schedule then please call **Joanna Denham or Mikaela Baker on 0171-434 4512 straight away!**

Crone Corkill
Multilingual Recruitment

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

Midlands c£18,000 + benefits

International tätiger Automobilzulieferer sucht für den Geschäftsführer des neugegründeten Standorts in South Staffordshire eine Top-Sekretärin. Neben exzellenten organisatorischen und einwandfreien Umgangsformen sind sehr gute Deutschkenntnisse für den täglichen Kontakt mit der deutschen Muttergesellschaft Voraussetzung. Sehr gute Schreibmaschinen- und Stenographiekenntnisse sind neben guten praktischen Kenntnissen in MS Word (Windows), MS Excel und PowerPoint unumgänglich. Eine vielseitige, aber auch phantastische Möglichkeit, in einem jungen, dynamischen und professionellen Team mitzuarbeiten. Flexibilität und Eigeninitiative sind genauso wichtig wie bisherige Berufserfahrung.

Ist das die Gelegenheit, nach der sie suchen? Bitte senden sie Ihre kompletten Bewerbungsunterlagen an Sarah Hopkins, MIL Advertising Services Ltd, Quadrant Court, 50 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1TH. Fax: 0121 454 8996.

BILINGUAL SECRETARIES

Success has no boundaries

We have been selected to recruit for two major American financial institutions based in the City. For these Temp to Perm vacancies, it is essential that you speak a European language. Russian, Polish or Swedish speakers will also be considered. Your experience of at least 2 years' in a secretarial capacity within a banking environment will be crucial in order to assist, organise and support the "Money Makers", Directors and Senior Partners. Excellent presentation together with the ability to work in a fast moving environment is essential. Please contact Caroline Gafson, Jacob Madsen or Davide Mele on 0171 814 0800 or fax your details on 0171 814 0801.

Angela Mortimer International

The bilingual Division of Angela Mortimer PLC

SERBIAN / MONTENEGRIN SPEAKING SECRETARY
£19,000 + FULL BANK BENS

Full admin / secretarial role for a bright, articulate secretary with strong communication skills. Superb job with lots of involvement on the marketing side.
Call Emma Marks.

Tel: 0171 588 8999 Fax: 0171 588 8998

Aldrich & Co Ltd
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EUROPEAN TEAM SECRETARY
£22,000 +++ packge

Hands on role for dynamic, versatile secretary with a knowledge of at least one other European language to join prestigious American Investment Bank. You will support a team of Executives and enjoy co-ordinating busy schedules, organising meetings and producing reports and presentations. Excellent working atmosphere. 2 years secretarial experience preferred. Please call Samantha Judd.

Tel: 0171 287 6060 Fax: 0171 494 4652

Boyce Bilingual

SALES ASSISTANT INVESTMENT BANK
£20,000 pckge
FLUENT SPANISH & FRENCH

Challenging opportunity to join the Private Clients desk of this top city investment bank assisting 2 brokers. You will perform varied tasks and assist in administration, coordination of busy itineraries, liaise with clients as well as help prepare portfolios. Fluent French & Spanish and Banking experience is essential. SFA useful. Call Samantha Judd on 0171 287 6060.

Tel: 0171 287 6060 Fax: 0171 494 4652

Boyce Bilingual

D S A
BILINGUAL LTD

bilingual

FRENCH/ITALIAN/SPANISH £18-20K + B.Bens

Major American City based Bank require a secretary with 1 years banking exp, wkg for 6 Analysts within [illegible] environment, and learn lots about Banking. Fluency in either of the languages essential.

SENIOR SECRETARY £20K ++B.Bens

Working for 3 Directors in large City Bank. Europ. language useful, exc. secretarial skills and banking background ess.

Junior Secretary with fluent French and good computer skills for Bank in the Westend. For these and many similar positions in the City and Westend please contact Ben Francis or Alison Corduroy.

FRANKFURT - SECRETARY WITH GERMAN to £25,000+

Prestigious joint venture based in Central Frankfurt seeks experienced secretary to work for 3 lawyers. Professional, young, friendly team environment. The ideal applicant will be aged 23+, fluent in German and English and have audio at 60wpm. Interviews in London and Frankfurt. Call Manuela on 0171 287 6060.

Tel: 0171 287 6060 Fax: 0171 494 4652

Boyce Bilingual

BILINGUAL Spanish (French pref) Sec/Office Mgr to 2 dirs of Int Bank. Autonomous role: liaise with S.America, arr.travel, diary etc. Solid sec exp. & Eng to m/t std ess. £20k+ bens. 0171 287 0424 Language Recruitment Services

DANISH STAR. Danish Sec/PA is sought by International Law firm. You will be well presented confident and capable with excellent Sec skills W4W essential. Must have 2 years min Secretarial exp. Please call Bilingual People on 0171 491 2400 or Fax 0171 491 1900.

X3 BILINGUAL SECRETARIES c£17,000. Career orientated secretaries required by top city bank. Fluent French (British national). A levels, Sec qualifications + 60 wpm typing ess. Call Tracy 0171-638 0303 Agy.

ARABIC PA £24k + Exceptional Benefits. Top PA required for this US Investment Company. 90 wpm shorthand. 65 wpm typing. knowledge of Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint. Work experience in the Gulf is essential. Please call Pan European on 0171 734 8484 or fax us on 0171 734 8801.

FRANKFURT - German biling sec for prestig intl co. Gd wp/typ skills. DM60,000 Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811

GERMAN - Surrey - Top PA role for a dynamic person to work at Director level. Fast moving + exciting atmosphere. Stunning location. c£20k+ bonus Car driver ess (Easy commute from London - 20 mins) Fast accurate typing & expert W4W ess. 0171 734 3380 Fax 0171 499 0568 Appointments Bi-language

FRENCH Senior PA Sec to Head of Invest Bank. True Asst. role. Prev bank exp pref. Min 3 yrs exp 24+ £24k + bb Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811

BILINGUAL German / Italian / Dutch Sec/admin for busy Personnel dept of W.London plc. Sec exp. ess Car owner pref £16k+ Bens 0171 287 0424 Language Recruitment Services

FRENCH & GERMAN SPKG EXEC SEC 22K+BEN. Executive is sought by top Multinational Co in the West End. You will be Extremely well presented, articulate and self motivated. Must have excellent organisational & Secretarial skills inc. W4W. Superb position for someone who enjoys a challenge/Busy role! Please call Bilingual People on 0171 491 2400 or Fax 0171 491 1900

FRENCH speaking PA/Sec with audio or Shorthand is sought to join top City bank. English MT standard preferred with fluent French. Would suit bright 2nd jobber looking to move into challenging and varied role. £18,000+ bens. Please call Samantha for more information on 0171 287 6060 at BOYCE BILINGUAL.

FRENCH-speaking senior PA for Finance Director of French co. in St. James's. Excellent organisational skills & real flexibility are crucial, as you will deputise for the MD's PA & provide sec/admin support to other members of the Finance Division. Salary c£22,000. If you have previously worked for an FD & have sound knowledge of MSOffice, pls call Sabina Stewart on 0171 434 4512. CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec Cons.

PARIS: Bilingual Secretaries. English mother tongue, fluent French & 50 wpm urgently reqd for variety of top intl co's. College leavers to Exec PA's. 120-220KF. London interviews next week. Sheila Burgess International, the specialists in Bilingual Secretarial Recruitment in Paris. Call 0171-584 6446 or fax Paris 1 44 63 02 69.

NORWEGIAN M/T Sec/ Bookkeeper is sought by top Co. in the City. You will have excellent audio + Bookkeeping Skills and be available for a 6-9 maternity contract starting Sept+ Please Call Bilingual People on 0171 491 2400 or Fax 0171 491 1900.

PARIS - Bilingual sec (English to mother tongue standard) for multilingual organisation based in the South of Paris. Knowledge of W4W, Excel and Powerpoint useful. 2 years' experience. Age 25+. Salary: 140KF. Pls call Benedicte Lecuyer on 0171 434 4512. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec Cons.

FRENCH speaking PA for Director of prestigious wine co. Must have English of mother tongue standard, good organisational ability, enjoy dealing with clients & have 3 years secretarial experience. Typ 50wpm. £16,000 + bens. 0171 493 2888 Heritage Rec.

ITALIAN Office Manager/PA to £20,000. Opportunity for dynamic Office Manager/PA with experience dealing with customers, as well as advanced knowledge of Excel, Powerpoint and Access to join newly set up co based in Harrow. Excellent opportunity to use initiative. Call Manuela at BOYCE BILINGUAL on 0171 287 6060 for more information.

PARIS - Prestigious law firm is looking for an evening WP operator -6pm to 12pm. Knowledge of Word Perfect 5.1 essential. Salary: 100 FF per hour. Pls call Benedicte Lecuyer on 0171 434 4512. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec Cons.

GERMAN: Get off to a flying start with this West End company, by spending 4 months training in Germany learning all about their industry before returning to take on a customer service role. Friendly office where everyone helps out. Lots of client liaison, tracking orders and generally promoting the company through high service standards. Word for Windows, Excel essential. Salary to £17000. Pls call Jennifer Ross on 0171 434 4512. CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec. Cons

LANGLEY. Slough/Uxbridge. Stunning location for fluent French or German speaking secretary to work for Human Resources department of international company. Working for the Group HR Director and HR Services Manager, your role will be evenly split between secretarial and administrative duties. Superb opportunity with career prospects for someone who wants to work locally but still enjoy an international atmosphere. Sound secretarial and computer skills essential. Salary £16,500 + Bens. Pls call Jennifer Ross on 0171 434 4512 CRONE CORKILL, MULTILINGUAL Rec. Cons.

SPANISH PA/Research Asst for intl research team in prestig intl bank Involvement in research / pub. Min 2 yrs exp. Gd typ/PC skills. £20k + OT+ bb. Language Matters 0171 930 1811

MEDIA: Fantastic opportunity for a French-speaking secretary to work for Sales Director of a dynamic, young company in Wimbledon. Great working environment. Must have solid secretarial skills including 80wpm shorthand. Salary £16-18,000. Pls call Fiona Kerr on 0171-434 4512 CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec Cons.

CZECH/ENGLISH Building Engineer Prague £18k LS Agy 0181 455 8922

FRENCH bil sec for Private clients dept of intl bank. City exp pref. Eng MT. Mid 20s. £17k + bb LM Agy 0171 930 1811

SWEDISH PA for top City bank 22+ Bank exp pref £20k+bb LM Agy 0171 930 1811

TRILINGUAL Fre/Spa Sales Asst for intl bank. Prev bank exp ess. To £20k+bb Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811

PERSONNEL OFFICER
+ German To 25K + pkge

Temp/perm recruitment, pers admin (incl payroll, benefits, training etc), deputise for Manager. IPN qualified + relevant exp, ideally in the City. Exc Engl, good German.

Multilingual services
0171 836 3794

FRENCH bil sec. Eng MT with legal exp ess. Young, lively dept. £22+, £18k+ bens. LM Agy 0171 930 1811

EXEC ASST
To £23,000 AAE

Can you manage and motivate? Dynamic Multinational, W London, seeks strong Administrator for team of young Execs. Ample variety and involvement for team player with initiative and ability to multitask. Foreign language desirable. Typing 40 wpm, Windows, Excel. Age to 35.

The Language Business
Tel: 0171-379 3189
Fax: 0171-379 0624
(Rec Cons)

SPANISH/PORTUGUESE PA £20K + O/T + BENS. English MT Sec PA with first class Sec skills needed for Top Director in very prestigious financial institution. Extremely well presented, articulate with the ability to prioritise and assume a high degree of responsibility. Superb Career prospects with this position! Please call Bilingual People on 0171 491 2400 or Fax 0171 491 1900.

SUPER SECRETARIES

MAYFAIR PA for small property company. W/P and people skills essential! Call: 0171 499 3993 or fax CV to 0171 499 0129 £18K to £19K dependant on experience.

CHAIRMAN of international group, based in W1, seeks well educated, well presented PA/companion, with personality and style, able and willing to travel whenever required. Knowledge of French useful but not essential. 32+ Well renumerated. Box No 7652

ARCHITECTURAL Director needs PA to help with promotional & marketing activities. Word for Windows/Database - £20,000. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

£17,000. Personnel Administrator to deal with Graduate Recruitment, Car Fleet and maintenance of all personnel records plus secretarial support. Lots of involvement. good WP skills. 0171 493 7001. SECRETARIES PLUS, the Secretarial Consultants.

£14,000 ASSISTANT - small, long established property co needs '2nd jobber' (ie some work experience) to provide secretarial/reception assistance. Excellent career 'stepping stone' dealing with diaries, meeting rooms, switchboard etc. Mayfair based. Please call 0171-494 4466 Gordon Yates Recruitment.

EALING £16,000 Sec/Bookkeeper. Sheila Childs Recruitment. 0171-437 3111.

EXPERIENCED Secretary/Receptionist Required. To work in a busy Sales and lettings office. The successful applicant will be articulate and well presented, have a typing speed of at least 50 w.p.m. and be experienced in using Word for Windows 6.0 and various database packages. Please send Curriculum Vitae's to: George Stead Ltd. 191 New Kings Road, London SW6 4SW

PART-TIME experienced PA with French for Director of City Bank. (Tues, Wed, Thurs) £20,000 pro rata Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

ARTS - £20,000 pro rata - three month contract, would suit someone interested in Architecture and Music. Could lead to something permanent. Excellent speech and presentation a must together with good previous work exp and sec skills. Age 23-35 Anderson Hoare (Rec Cons) 0171 824 8821

18K for personnel sec. E.London/S. Essex. Fab director of major Plc. 30% Typing. Good bens. Fax CV on 0171 388 1395. Mainstream Agy.

£20,000 - PA. 24+ for Main Board Director of famous Mayfair Company. He's great - and so are career prospects! Shorthand 80+. 0171 493 7001. SECRETARIES PLUS, the Secretarial Consultants.

SECRETARY/Receptionist required for busy Covent Garden estate Agents. Property experience an advantage. Knowledge of MS Word 7 or WP6.1 essential. Salary a.a.e. CVs to: Copping Joyce (Ref: DF). 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL.

CONFERENCES/PUBLISHING PA to MD c£16,000 up to 35 years in SW1. Excel and Word. Self sound administrator who can take responsibility and juggle 10 balls at once. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 3717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd.

PERSONNEL PA - for Personnel Manager of Major Store Group. Good career prospects. 21+ £17,000 plus excellent discounts. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

PROPERTY Chairman W1 needs super secretary: Audio + some shorthand. £20,000 plus. Age 25-35 Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

CHAIRMANS PA W9 c18k + pp + v.g. perks. Exc SH 90/60+ typing/ Microsoft W for W /Powerpoint. Age 30+. lots of involvement. Call Elliot Rec 0181 780 3378.

HOTEL Sales Sec c£15000. proactive job for someone with work experience at UKs premier hotel group. suit efficient personality+++ Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 3717. Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd.

£17,000 - PA to Chief Exec of 'arts related' firm. Shorthand. M/S Office, City. 0171 377 8600. SECRETARIES PLUS - the Secretarial Consultants.

DEAL with clients and lots of admin in a busy pressurised role as secretary to the Director. Good organisational skills + W4W. Age 25+. £18,000. 0171 493 7001, SECRETARIES PLUS, the Secretarial Consultants.

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RUGBY UNION

England aim to bridge great divide

BY JOHN HOPKINS

THE focus of the row in rugby over the television rights to the five nations' championship moved to a Cardiff hotel last night. At a meeting chaired by Sir Tasker Watkins, president of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), the president and key officers of the three other home unions were present in an attempt to end the rift which exists between England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, 11 days after England had been thrown out of the five nations' championship for negotiating their own five-year, £87.5 million television deal with BSkyB.

First to arrive were Colin Herridge, treasurer of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), John Richardson, president of the RFU, John Jeavons-Fellows, and Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU's executive committee. They were followed by the Scottish delegation led by Alan Hosie, a five nations' representative, and Fred McLeod, president of the Scottish Rugby Union.

Spectators were lined up on the pavement across the street from the main entrance to the Park Hotel. Perhaps they had formed the misplaced view that the television cameras and reporters with microphones were there to catch film stars entering and leaving the hotel.

There was an air of friendly informality as the various delegates met one another. The Irish group, including Bob Deacy, president of the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), Tom Kiernan, chairman of the five nations' committee, and Syd Millar, a past president of the IRFU, were the last to arrive.

It was thought that the atmosphere inside the Princes Suite on the first floor where the meeting was taking place would be less friendly. Wales, Scotland, and Ireland allegedly want England to forego their deal with Sky, and revert to the system in which the television money is split equally.

First though England have to be reinstated to the five nations' championships. For this to happen, there has to be some eating of humble pie by the four England representatives in Cardiff — two from the old guard, namely Herridge and Jeavons-Fellows — and the two new representatives, Richardson and Brittle.

Once that is done, it is thought the RFU would offer a share of the £87.5 million to the other countries. But that is easier said than done because £22 million of this sum is supposed to be paid to clubs in Courage leagues one and two in England. These clubs are expecting to use that capital sum to pay the wage bills that modern rugby requires.

So if that money is not forthcoming, then English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd. (EPRUC) are reported to be in a mood to revolt.

"England called the meeting," McLeod said. "It's up to them to see what they can offer the unions."

Sir Tasker Watkins added: "Yes, it's really up to the English. There has to be some concession from them. We're optimistic the championship can be saved, otherwise we wouldn't all be here."

John Richardson, the RFU president, believed it was necessary to issue a statement to calm the worries of rugby supporters in England. But there was a possibility that any such statement would have to be delayed until after the meeting of the five nations committee at the East India and Sports Club in London today.

Earlier in the afternoon, it was announced that the top Welsh clubs had negotiated their own television deal worth £22 million over five years with BSkyB. This was something they were unable to do according to the WRU.

Vernon Pugh, chairman of the WRU, said he believed the package to be a misunderstanding. "We have received no official notification from First Division Rugby Limited, and I do not believe they would even contemplate negotiating their own TV agreement," Pugh said. "That would be wholly contrary to what the WRU has agreed with representatives of its senior clubs, whom we believe to be honourable people."

Harris, the Warrington stand-off half, will command a world record fee if he leaves the club

Young Harris for sale at £1.35 m

BY DAVID MADDOCK

IESTYN HARRIS, the young Warrington stand-off half considered to be the best in Britain, was yesterday placed on the transfer list at a world record price of £1.35 million. The move by Alex Murphy, the Warrington director of football, was a reaction to claims from Harris that he is unhappy at the club.

The 20-year-old is considered a certainty to hold down the stand-off position on Great Britain's forthcoming tour of New Zealand, and he was recently voted the International Player of the Year. An exciting, powerful spirit, his future at the very pinnacle of rugby league is assured.

It is the other code which seems to be beckoning, however, with dark mutterings from Wilderspool yesterday about the player's sudden desire to leave. "Four months ago Iestyn was the happiest bloke in the world when he signed a new five-year contract with us," Murphy said. "Now he says he is unhappy and yet can't give us a reason. I think there is an ulterior motive behind this.

"There are other forces outside our control, people have been whispering in his ear, unsettling the kid. All I know is that things started to go wrong when he went back to the valleys to play for Wales. Straightaway, things started going rocky. It will be very interesting to see where he goes if he leaves us."

Murphy's clear suggestion is that Harris could become the latest league player to succumb to the temptation of union, with Cardiff, Saracens, Richmond and possibly Newport all believed to be interested in signing him. Whichever club does must be prepared to meet the fee which would treble the previous record of £450,000, set when Paul Newlove moved from Bradford to St Helens.

"We know that 99.9 per cent of league clubs can't afford that fee, but if union clubs want him they will have to find the money because we won't take anything less," Murphy said. "We don't want anyone here who isn't committed to the club, but we want the right fee."

☐ An international rugby league match will be played in Scotland for the first time in 85 years next month. Scotland and Ireland will clash at Partick Thistle Football Club's Firhill ground in Glasgow on August 6.

FOOTBALL

Jordi primed for cut-price move to Old Trafford

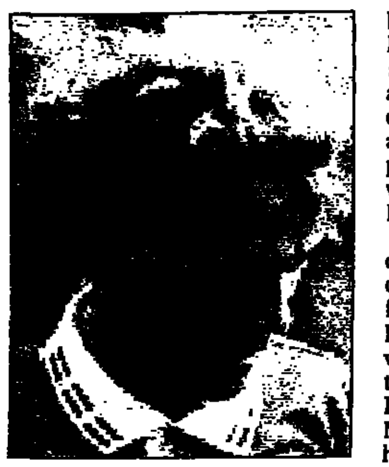
BY DAVID MADDOCK

JORDI CRUYFF, the Holland international, is about to become the next big-name foreign player to join the invasion of British shores. The 21-year-old entered into contract negotiations yesterday with Manchester United, after Alex Ferguson, the manager, flew to Barcelona for talks.

There are fewer bigger names than Cruyff, although it has entered into legend because of the stirring deeds of his father, Johan, who was present as discussions took place in Barcelona. Jordi, as he likes to be known, has made a fair effort of following in famous footsteps, however, becoming a regular in the Dutch national team at a tender age.

Ferguson was encouraged by the fact that the forward is available at a cut-price fee of £1.5 million. Jordi's position at Barcelona became tenuous, to say the least, when his father was sacked as manager at the end of a disappointing season, and then promptly sued his former employer. "What has happened is a political decision, that is very clear," Jordi said recently.

It was his father who agreed a clause in the player's contract, allowing a reduced fee if he should leave Spain; and Cruyff was quick to alert Manchester United when it became clear that his son had no future at the club he served as player and manager with distinction.



Cruyff: outstanding

Ferguson spoke to Bobby Robson, the new Barcelona manager, on Monday, and flew out to Spain in an attempt to tie up the deal quickly. Jordi can operate along both flanks, or in a central position, and has still untapped potential.

The Manchester United manager entered into talks with the pair, plus Robson, and a deal is expected to be agreed this morning. Jordi admitted that he immediately seized upon England as a destination when it became clear he would be allowed to leave Barcelona. "I have heard about some interest from several English clubs, and Dennis Bergkamp says it is great over there. It would excite me a great deal," he said.

Jaume Gorres, the player's agent, confirmed yesterday that talks were underway. "I w[illegible] Manchester United and Barcelona to agree all the details first and then we will sit down properly to talk about the contract," he said.

It was a day of frenetic transfer activity, to remind everyone that the new season is less than four weeks away. The most surprising was the sale by Leeds United, for £3 million of Gary McAllister, their captain, to Coventry City. The Scotland international had submitted a formal transfer request and Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, admitted: "Of course we would like him to stay, but there is little we can do if a player would prefer to be elsewhere."

Meanwhile, Tottenham Hotspur have signed Allan Nielsen, the Denmark international, for a fee of £1.65 million. The Brondby player appeared in the recent European championship finals in England, and was once considered the most promising player in the country when signed as a 17-year-old by Bayern Munich.

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, confirmed yesterday that he is confident of completing the transfer of Nigel Martyn, the Crystal Palace goalkeeper, by the end of the week. Birmingham City continued their spending spree by paying Blackburn Rovers £775,000 for Mike Newell, and Luton Tov[illegible] have agreed to sell Scott Oakes to Sheffield Wednesday for £700,000.

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RACING: MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT PLANNED TO IMPROVE RACECOURSE FACILITIES

Kempton to have £8 million facelift

By Julian Muscat

SIMON TOWNSLEY

The Kempton paddock will be resited behind the main grandstand as part of a major redevelopment plan for the metropolitan course

KEMPTON PARK, for so long the white elephant among metropolitan racecourses, is to be extensively redeveloped at a cost of £8 million. The project is geared towards improving customer facilities and introducing a sense of atmosphere sorely lacking on racedays.

Subject to a successful planning application, the paddock is to be resited behind the main grandstand. The grandstand itself — one of the biggest in Britain with a capacity of 10,000 — will be thoroughly refurbished so that spectators can overlook the new paddock. And a new restaurant will overlook the racecourse. Particular emphasis will be paid to improving facilities for racegoers.

Work on the redevelopment, scheduled to commence in seven months, is due for completion before the King George VI Chase in December next year. United Racecourses Ltd, which runs Kempton Park, is to apply to the Horserace Betting Levy Board for loan finance towards the overall cost.

The management team at Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT), which, together with Epsom and Sandown, bought Kempton Park in a £30 million package more than two years ago, has thought long and hard about how to liberate the track from its perception as a soulless venue. The RHT board went into considerable detail over the feasibility of installing a floodlit all-weather track. That proposal was rejected eight months ago, primarily on financial grounds but also because it would interfere with the existing turf course.

David Hillyard, managing director of RHT, said: "Kempton Park lies in a metropolitan Green Belt. That makes it incredibly sensitive to planning applications but we don't anticipate any problems on that front. One of the things that has always concerned us is that the grandstand is rather distant from the parade ring, but all that will change. We are pleased with what we've come up with."

RHT recently initiated a £10 million grandstand development for the Tattersalls enclosure at Cheltenham. Kempton represents its major project for 1997 but the trust, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Jockey Club, also has ambitions to improve Aintree racecourse next year. In addition, RHT is servicing some £17 million in loans secured to fund the purchase of Epsom, Kempton and Sandown in 1994.

Asked about the redevelopment implications for Kempton's admission charges, Hillyard said no assurances could be given. "One cannot make cast-iron guarantees," he said, "but we recognise we are in a climate where we need to look at prices very carefully. As a concept, value for money has never been more important."

Situated on the fringes of Hampton Court, near Kingston, Kempton Park is the closest racecourse to central London and could not be better placed to attract sizeable crowds. It has a number of attractive racing dates, yet it only draws a full house on Boxing Day, when the King George VI Chase showcases a National Hunt card rich in quality. Attendance at the track fell by six per cent in 1995, although that downward spiral was arrested in the first six months of this year.

It has been evident for some years that Kempton would benefit from wide-scale redevelopment. Racing will take place for much of the ten-month building programme, although the course will be closed between May and August next year. In that time, three of its five fixtures are to be relocated to Epsom. Sandown and Newmarket will host the other two.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KINGS HARMONY
(7.45 Sandown Park)
Next best: Circus Star
(2.15 Bath)

BATH

THUNDERER

2.15 Circus Star. 2.45 Mr Cube. 3.15 Diminutive. 3.45 Dancethenightaway. 4.15 Tafahhus. 4.45 Special Beat.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 CIRCUS STAR.

GOING: FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 ORCHARDLEIGH LIMITED STAKES
(£2,705: 1m 3f 144yd) (8 runners)

1 (3) 0211 PISTOL 9 (F,G) C Horgan 6-9-8 — Paul Eddery 89
2 (8) 0233 ASKERN 16 (F) D Haydn Jones 5-9-4 — A Mackay 93
3 (7) 006- COLT D'OR 256J J White 4-9-4 — R Hughes —
4 (5) 0-00 DOLLIVER 14 S Dow 4-9-4 — T Quinn 86
5 (1) 4056 DORMY THREE 24 (F,G) R Hodges 6-9-4 — T Sprake 80
6 (4) -000 LANDLORD 183 (F,G) J Toller 4-9-4 — D Harrison 77
7 (6) 50-1 CIRCUS STAR 4 (F) M Prescott 3-8-8 — W Woods [illegible]
8 (2) 5025 ARCADY 11 P Walwyn 3-8-3 — S Sanders 91

11-4 Pistol, 3-1 Askern, 7-2 Arcady, 4-1 Circus Star, 6-1 Dolliver, 7-1 others.

2.45 BE HOPEFUL MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(£3,667: 1m 5yd) (8)

1 (4) -040 ABOVE THE CUT 14 (B,F) P Harris 4-10-0 — G Hind 85
2 (7) 1014 MAPLE BAY 18 (D,G) A Bailey 7-9-8 — P Roberts (5) 93
3 (3) -010 STAR OF GOLD 14 (F,G) C Egerton 4-9-4 — R Hughes 91
4 (5) 2321 MY GALLERY 4 (F,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-4 (7ex) D Wright (3) 87
5 (1) 0061 KING CURAN 9 (B,D,F,G,S) D H-Jones 5-8-6 (7ex) A Mackay [illegible]
6 (6) 2355 MR CUBE 4 (B,CD,F,G) J Bradley 6-8-3 — T Sprake 95
7 (8) 5350 MAPLE BURL 85 (G) M Pipe 3-7-13 — M Henry (3) 92
8 (2) 0000 GREAT BEAR 13 (G) D Chapman 4-7-10 — J Quinn 88

9-4 My Gallery, 11-4 King Curan, 3-1 Maple Bay, 5-1 Star Of Gold, 7-1 Great Bear, 12-1 Above The Cut, 14-1 others.

3.15 WEST LITTLETON LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,731: 1m 2f 46yd) (3)

1 (3) 6105 DIMINUTIVE 11 (F) J Hills 8-12 — M Henry (3) 92
2 (1) 143 FINSBURY FLYER 13 (G) R Hodges 8-12 P P Murphy (5) 90
3 (2) -035 NASEEM ALSAHAR 29 (B) W Hern 8-7 — T Sprake [illegible]

Evens Finsbury Flyer, 6-4 Diminutive, 11-4 Naseem Alsahar

3.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MELKSHAM MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,397: 5f 11yd) (6)

1 (1) 3 JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 13 K McAuliffe 9-0 — J F Egan [illegible]
2 (2) 5 AEGEAN SOUND 49 R Hannon 8-9 — Dane O'Neill (3) 84
3 (6) 503 BRAMBLE BEAR 24 M Blanshard 8-9 — A Clark 94
4 (3) BRAZILIA P Walwyn 8-9 — R Cochrane —
5 (5) DANCETHENIGHTAWAY B Meehan 8-9 — B Doyle —
6 (4) 00 MIDNIGHT TIMES 53 D O'Brien 8-9 — G Bardwell —

9-4 Aegean Sound, 3-1 Bramble Bear, 7-2 Jeffrey Anotherred, Brazilia, 7-1 Dancethenightaway, 25-1 Midnight Times.

4.15 DYRHAM SPRINT HANDICAP
(£3,553: 5f 161yd) (6)

1 (2) 0441 KILDEE LAD 6 (CD,F,G) A Jones 6-10-3 (7ex) — B Doyle [illegible]
2 (5) 0461 TAFAHHUS 6 (B,C,D,F) M Polglase 4-10-1 (7ex) D Harrison 91
3 (1) 5210 SHADOW JURY 12 (B,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 6-9-5 J Quinn 97
4 (3) 1820 RAMBOLD 11 (D,F,G) N Berry 5-9-1 — R Perham 98
5 (4) 0311 POINTER 11 (D,F,S) Mrs P Dutfield 4-8-9 — T Quinn 93
6 (6) 0302 ASTRAL INVADER 6 (D,F,S) M Saunders 4-8-6 P P Murphy (5) 96

5-2 Pointer, 7-2 Kildee Lad, 4-1 Tafahhus, 9-2 Shadow Jury, Astral Invader, 7-1 Rambold.

4.45 STAYERS HANDICAP
(£2,895: 2m 1f 34yd) (8)

1 (6) 0404 PARADISE NAVY 11 (B,G) C Egerton 7-10-0 — R Hughes 97
2 (8) 0-01 SPECIAL BEAT 16 (CD,F) P Cole 4-9-10 — T Quinn 95
3 (2) -400 PREROGATIVE 30 (V) R Simpson 6-9-5 Aimee Cook (5) 95
4 (5) 6506 KYMIN 18 (B) D Murray Smith 4-9-4 — R Painter (5) [illegible]
5 (4) 0-41 WADADA 25 (CD,F) D Burchell 5-8-7 — S Drowne (3) 95
6 (3) 60-0 CHUCKLESTONE 25 (CD,F,G) J King 13-7-10 — J Quinn 94
7 (7) -004 KING UBAD 25 (B) K Cunningham-Brown 7-7-10 J F Egan 94
8 (1) 0000 AMBER RING 19 Miss K George 3-7-10 Darren Moffatt (3) 83

6-4 Special Beat, 2-1 Paradise Navy, 3-1 Wadada, 8-1 Kymin, 12-1 King Ubad, Chucklestone, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J King, 7 winners from 30 runners, 23.3%; W Hern, 9 from 41, 22.0%; M Prescott, 4 from 20, 20.0%; P Cole, 21 from 111, 18.9%; J Toller, 3 from 17, 17.6%; P Harris, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: M Henry, 7 winners from 28 rides, 25.0%; T Quinn, 27 from 162, 16.7%, R Cochrane, 13 from 79, 16.5%; Paul Eddery, 14 from 87, 16.1%, R Hughes, 10 from 62, 16.1%; S Sanders, 5 from 38, 13.2%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Yarmouth

Going: firm

2.15 (7f 3yd) 1, GYMCRAK FLYER (D McKeown, 11-4); 2, Awesome Venture (D R McCabe, 7-1); 3, Red Admiral (M Tebbutt, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Thordis (5th), 11-4 Wild Palm (4th). 5 ran. ¾l, 1¾l, sh hd, 2l. G Holmes at Pickering. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £2.30. DF: £9.10. CSF: £17.33.

2.45 (7f 3yd) 1, SILCA'S MY KEY (R Hughes, 2-1); 2, Sharazamataz (S Sanders, 13-2); 3, Bold Motion (M Baird, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Surprise Event (4th), 10 Rons Revenge (5th), 14 Tirol's Treasure (6th). 6 ran. 2½l, 5l, sh hd, 9l, 22l. M Channon at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.90; £1.70, £2.20. DF: £5.60. CSF: £13.19.

3.15 (1m 3f 101yd) 1, LEAR EXPRESS (Pat Eddery, 4-9 fav, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Royal Action (J Stack, 8-1); 3, Welcome Parade (W Ryan, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Lady Of Leisure (4th), 33 Partita (5th). 5 ran. Hd, sh hd, 4l, 12l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.90. DF: £4.70. CSF: £4.22.

3.45 (6f 3yd) 1, SYLVA PARADISE (B Doyle, 5-2); 2, Cross Of Valour (S Sanders, 6-1); 3, Mazeed (R Hills, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Shanghai Girl (6th), 7 Princely Sound (4th), 12 Ramsey Hope (5th). 6 ran. 3½l, 3½l, 2l, 2l, 8l. C Brittain at Newmarket. Tote: £3.70; £1.30, £3.60. DF: £11.60. CSF: £15.50.

4.15 (5f 43yd) 1, BAHAMIAN BOUNTY (R Hughes, 1-11 fav); 2, Castle Ashby Jack (Paul Eddery, 25-1); 3, Brettini (T McLaughlin, 100-1). ALSO RAN: 11 Valentine Fairy (5th), 25 Magyar Titok (4th). 5 ran. 2½l, nk, hd, 3l. D Loder at Newmarket. Tote: £1.20; £1.10, £2.60. DF: £3.30. CSF: £3.83.

4.45 (1m 6f 17yd) 1, BOLD CLASSIC (Pat Eddery, 9-4 fav); 2, Classic Colleen (A Mackay, 7-1); 3, Arktikos (G Hind, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Junior Ben (4th), 6 Mansur (6th), 7 Code Red (5th), Crimson Rosella. 7 ran. ¾l, 2½l, nk, 5l, nk. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £2.30; £2.00, £3.60. DF: £6.70. CSF: £15.96.

Jackpot: £88.60.
Placepot: £30.50. Quadpot: £5.60.

Worcester

Going: good to firm

2.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, BORN TO PLEASE (A P McCoy, 11-8 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Ewar Imperial (D Gallagher, 20-1); 3, Murberry (L Harvey, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Big Treat (4th), 16 Carnival Clown, Sommersby (6th), Up The Tempo (5th), 20 Bowland Park (ur), 33 Liberty James (pu), 66 Its A Myth (pu). 10 ran. 7l, 2l, nk, 1l, dist. P Hobbs at Minehead. Tote: £2.20; £1.70, £4.00, £2.20. DF: £20.10. Trio: £37.70. CSF: £25.34.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, MILLION DANCER (D Bridgwater, 3-1); 2, Supermodel (R Dunwoody, 11-4 fav); 3, Count Of Flanders (A S Smith, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Wet Patch (6th), 9-2 At The Acorn (5th), 25 Maronetta (pu), 33 Betabetcorbett (4th). 7 ran. 11l, 17l, 9l, 13l, 24l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £4.80; £2.40, £1.60. DF: £4.90. CSF: £12.06.

3.00 (2m 7f ch) 1, EVANGELICA (D Bridgwater, 8-11 fav); 2, Waterford Castle (T J Murphy, 9-4); 3, Tour Leader (B Powell, 4-1). 3 ran. 5l, 21l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.52.

3.30 (3m hdle) 1, STORMTRACKER (Michael Brennan, 11-4); 2, The Black Monk (D Bridgwater, 5-2 fav); 3, Green Lane (C Llewellyn, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Jawani (4th), 10 Quiet Dawn (pu), 12 Same Difference (5th), 20 Daringly (pu). 7 ran. Dist, 20l, dist, 15l. C Weedon at Chiddingfold. Tote: £3.80; £2.10, £1.50. DF: £5.20. CSF: £9.45.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, MAGGOTS GREEN (A P McCoy, 3-1 fav); 2, Sydney Barry (B Powell, 5-1); 3, Micherado (R Johnson, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Cyrill Henry (4th), 5 Merlins Wish (pu), 10 Astounded (5th), 16 Hugh Daniels (6th). 7 ran. 18l, 5l, 8l, 3½l, 28l. J Bradley at Chepstow. Tote: £3.30; £1.60, £4.10. DF: £9.30. CSF: £17.34.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, OUT RANKING (D Bridgwater, 4-1); 2, El Grando (D Gallagher, 4-1); 3, Mr Snaggle (C Maude, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Pair Of Jacks (5th), 9-2 King's Shilling (4th), 11 Betty's Island (6th). 6 ran. Nk, sh hd, 10l, sh hd, 30l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £4.50; £1.70, £2.80. DF: £7.00. CSF: £19.14.

Placepot: £37.80. Quadpot: £20.40.

Monday's late details

Beverley

Going: good to firm

8.15 (1m 3f 216yd) 1, Pickens (R Cochrane, 7-2); 2, North Bear (7-2); 3, Balios (7-2). Vashca Lady 5-2 fav. 7 ran. NR: Elpida. ½l, nk. N Tinkler. Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £3.10. DF: £20.40. CSF: £16.40.

8.40 (7f 100yd) 1, Mount Kamet (R Hughes, 8-11 fav); 2, Eurolink Excalibur (7-4); 3, Maradi (6-1). 8 ran. NR: Mutahadeth. 5l, 2l. D Loder. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £1.40. Trio: £3.00. CSF: £2.96.

7.10 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Darling Clover (R Cochrane, 2-1 fav); 2, Maid For Baileys (13-2); 3, Fairywings (4-1). 7 ran. ½l, ¾l. D Morley. Tote: £3.10; £1.70, £2.00. DF: £7.90. CSF: £15.32.

7.40 (7f 100yd) 1, Thatched (D McKeown, 5-1); 2, Euro Sceptic (7-1); 3, Caster (7-4 fav). 6 ran. Nk, ½l. R Barr. Tote: £6.20; £2.30, £2.60. DF: £24.70. CSF: £34.53.

8.10 (5f) 1, Saunders Wren (P P Murphy, 5-4 fav); 2, Antares (16-1); 3, Sandbaggedagain (14-1). 12 ran. NR: Dee Pee Tee Cee. 2l, nk. M Channon. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £7.30, £3.40. DF: £33.20. Trio: £168.30. CSF: £27.33.

8.40 (2m 35yd) 1, Jamaican Flight (J Fortune, 2-1); 2, Go With The Wind (6-4 fav); 3, Mischief Star (5-2). 4 ran. Nk, 1½l. J Hills. Tote: £2.90. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.17.

Placepot: £178.70. Quadpot: £81.30.

Windsor

Going: good to firm

6.25 (1m 3f 135yd) 1, Kristal Breeze (J Reid, 7-1); 2, Nothing Doing (6-1); 3, Elly Fleetfoot (8-1). Ajder 4-1 fav. 15 ran. 1¾l, hd. W Muir. Tote: £7.00; £2.00, £2.20, £2.80. DF: £34.10. Trio: £28.40. CSF: £43.00. Tricast: £309.62.

6.55 (5f 10yd) 1, Gunners Glory (B Doyle, 10-1); 2, Effervescence (7-4 fav); 3, Incatime (25-1). 10 ran. Hd, 3l. B Meehan. Tote: £14.70; £3.20, £1.30, £6.20. DF: £16.20. Trio: £213.70. CSF: £28.85.

7.25 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, Monument (B Doyle, 14-1); 2, Soviet Bride (11-2); 3, Princess Danielle (8-1). Shining Example 9-4 fav. 10 ran. Sh hd, ¾l. J King. Tote: £22.00; £6.20, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £54.70. Trio: £170.00. CSF: £86.84. Tricast: £619.16.

7.55 (6f 217yd) 1, Irtifa (W Carson, 7-4); 2, Colombia (10-11 fav); 3, Silver Purse (8-1). 4 ran. NR: Raffelina. Nk, 1½l. P Walwyn. Tote: £2.40. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.43.

8.25 (1m 67yd) 1, Q Factor (A Mackay, 10-1); 2, Blessed Spirit (10-1); 3, Rubbiyati (4-1 jt-fav). Bandit Girl 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. Hd, 5l. D Haydn Jones. Tote: £19.80; £5.00, £3.80, £1.70. DF: £97.10. Trio: £154.10. CSF: £101.87. Tricast: £442.89.

8.55 (5f 217yd) 1, Never Think Twice (M J Dwyer, 10-1); 2, Lucky Revenge (7-1); 3, Redskin Lady (12-1). Croeso Cynnes 9-4 fav. 14 ran. 6l, 1½l. K Ivory. Tote: £11.60; £2.30, £2.90, £3.00. DF: £37.60. Trio: £149.20. CSF: £82.76. Tricast: £812.41.

Jackpot: not won.
Placepot: £778.20. Quadpot: £124.60.

□ Henry Cecil passed the £1 million mark in win and place prize-money for the season when Lear Express won the Medler Maiden Stakes at Yarmouth yesterday.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
BATH 101 201
CATTERICK 102 202
SANDOWN 103 203
LEICESTER 104 204
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.30 Poly Moon. 3.00 Silk Cottage. 3.30 Wilawander. 4.00 Nashaat. 4.30 Blue Bomber. 5.00 Cheeky Chappy.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 HUDDERSFIELD SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,427: 7f) (12 runners)

1 ABSOLUTE CHARLIE D Barker 8-11 — N Carlisle 11
2 5024 APICULATE 5 W Kemp 8-11 — J Weaver 4
3 060 BILLYCAN 9 B Baugh 8-11 — W Lord 9
4 000 CAJUN SUNSET 14 T Easterby 8-11 — K Darley 2
5 5251 GINNY WOSSERNAME 19 (B,D,G) W G M Turner 8-11 D Sweeney (7) 1
6 021 GROVEFAIR MAIDEN 12 (B,F) B Meehan 8-11 — M Tebbutt 5
7 604 THE BEE MAN 95 M W Easterby 8-11 — G Parkin (5) 7
8 6 TOOELE 20 (V) J Norton 8-11 — J Lowe 10
9 WHO T Easterby 8-11 — M Birch 12
10 3393 ABSTONE QUEEN 18 P Evans 8-6 — J Fortune 3
11 0003 FOOLISH FLUTTER 5 (V) G Oldroyd 8-6 — Dale Gibson 8
12 4324 POLY MOON 8 M Channon 8-6 — J Carroll 6

3-1 Ginny Wossername, 5-1 The Bee Man, Grovefair Maiden, Poly Moon, 8-1 Abstone Queen, 8-1 Who, Cajun Sunset, 10-1 others.

3.00 C.S.S SDN BHD HANDICAP (£3,158: 5f) (10)

1 2123 SWAN AT WHALLEY 4 (D,BF,F,G) M Wane 4-10-0 J Fortune 6
2 2213 SILK COTTAGE 7 (V,D,G) R Whitaker 4-9-4 — D McKeown 3
3 P352 ABLE SHERIFF 7 (B,D,F) M W Easterby 4-8-9 — G Parkin (5) 4
4 2002 LEADING PRINCESS 5 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 5-8-7 J Weaver 2
5 0226 KALAR 16 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 7-8-7 — J Carroll 8
6 5240 SERIOUS HURRY 18 (D,F,G) R McKellar 8-8-5 — K Sked (7) 7
7 0356 IMP EXPRESS 8 (B,D,F,S) G Moore 3-8-3 — N Kennedy 1
8 0025 THE INSTITUTE BOY 7 (D,G) Miss J Craze 6-8-1 — J Lowe 10
9 3400 DOUBLE GLOW 3 (D,F,G) N Bycroft 4-7-10 — Iona Wands (7) 5
10 80-0 QUINTA BOY 107 J Eyre 3-7-10 — J Bramhill (7) 9

4-1 Leading Princess, 9-2 Silk Cottage, Able Sheriff, 5-1 Swan At Whalley, The Institute Boy, Imp Express, 8-1 Kalar, 10-1 others.

3.30 DEWSBURY MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,883: 1m 5f 175yd) (6)

1 06 BALLET DE COUR 15 W Elsey 3-8-7 — A Culhane 1
2 00- LIMYSKI 327 Mrs A Swinbank 3-8-7 — J Weaver 4
3 4224 WILAWANDER 35 B Hills 3-8-7 — M Hills 5
4 -343 BELMARITA 19 M Tompkins 3-8-2 — P Robinson 3
5 0 RUSSIAN ROULETTE 15 M Johnston 3-8-2 — T Williams 6
6 3 TOTEM DANCER 15 J Eyre 3-8-2 — C Teague (3) 2

4-6 Wilawander, 5-2 Belmarita, 11-2 Totem Dancer, 14-1 Russian Roulette, 20-1 Ballet De Cour, 33-1 Limyski

4.00 LEEDS HANDICAP (£3,558: 7f) (8)

1 0600 PRIDE OF PENDLE 45 (D,BF,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-10-0 Alex Greaves 8
2 0221 NASHAAT 29 (D,F,G,S) M Chapman 8-9-12 — P McCabe (3) 2
3 1101 PINE RIDGE LAD 12 (D,F,G) J Eyre 6-9-9 — D Pears (3) 6
4 0360 BAILEYS FIRST 18 M Johnston 3-9-8 — J Weaver 3
5 1-61 PRIZEFIGHTER 151J (D,F,G) J Eyre 5-8-7 — C Teague (3) 1
6 2234 ZAIN DANCER 13 (D) D Nicholls 4-9-0 — J Carroll 4
7 2241 TERMON 23 (G) Miss L Perratt 3-8-13 — K Darley 5
8 0452 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 3 (S) R McKellar 4-7-10 T Williams 7

3-1 Pine Ridge Lad, 7-2 Nashaat, 9-2 Prizefighter, 5-1 Pride Of Pendle, Zain Dancer, 6-1 Termon, 8-1 others.

4.30 LEYBURN CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,742: 7f) (6)

1 05-0 AXEMAN 4 (F) D Nicholls 4-8-8 — Alex Greaves 6
2 10-1 LUNCH PARTY 68 (D,F) D Nicholls 4-8-5 — J Carroll 1
3 3001 BLUE BOMBER 21 (CD,F,G,S) T Barron 5-8-11 — J Fortune 2
4 0/0- WACKY 358 W Storey 5-8-7 — N Kennedy 4
5 05 SLY LADY 15 W Elsey 4-8-5 — A Culhane 3
6 4000 MADONNA DA ROSSI 7 M Dods 3-8-1 — Dale Gibson 5

6-4 Axeman, 7-4 Blue Bomber, 2-1 Lunch Party, 25-1 Sly Lady, 33-1 Madonna Da Rossi, 40-1 Wacky.

5.00 HALIFAX HANDICAP (£2,700: 5f 212yd) (10)

1 6051 ROCKCRACKER 11 (B,D,F) G Margarson 4-10-0 P Bloomfield 6
2 1153 CHEEKY CHAPPY 3 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 5-9-13 — K Darley 3
3 5131 THWAAB 3 (V,D,F) F Watson 4-9-8 (7ex) — J Fortune 1
4 1050 INVIGILATE 6 (CD,F,G) M Wane 7-9-1 — J Carroll 5
5 1201 MY GODSON 19 (B,G,F,G,S) J Eyre 6-9-0 — C Teague (3) 4
6 6450 HENRY THE HAWK 30 (D,S) M Dods 5-8-12 — C Webb (7) 2
7 0588 HICKLETON MISS 20 (F) Mrs V Aconley 3-8-8 — N Carlisle 7
8 4000 APRIL'S JOY 7 (V,F) J Norton 3-8-8 — — 9
9 0400 SUEDORO 51 (D,F) R McKellar 6-8-6 — K Sked (7) 8
10 -550 BRISAS 55 (D,F,G) C Fairhurst 9-8-4 — D McKeown 10

3-1 Thwaab, 7-2 Rockcracker, 4-1 Cheeky Chappy, 5-1 My Godson, 6-1 Invigilate, 10-1 Hickleton Miss, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B Hills, 17 winners from 40 runners, 42.5%; M Channon, 8 from 24.2%; W G M Turner, 3 from 14, 21.4%; T Easterby, 3 from 15, T Barron, 13 from 80, 16.3%, M Tompkins, 4 from 29, 13.8%; M Johnston, 10 from 78, 12.8%.

JOCKEYS: M Hills, 5 winners from 8 rides, 62.5%; K Darley, 28 from 143, 19.6%; J Carroll, 28 from 158, 17.7%; J Weaver, 17 from 103, 16.5%; D Pears, 9 from 58, 15.5%, G Parkin, 3 from 22, 13.6%; J Fortune, 11 from 95, 11.6%.

□ Chief Minister, one of the top northern-based hurdlers for the past two years, is to join Micky Hammond's Middleham yard. Hammond has won the right to take over the training of the seven-year-old after the decision of Chief Minister's former handler, Tom Dyer, to hand in his licence two months ago.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

6.30 I Can't Remember. 7.00 Samara Song. 7.30 Goodwood Lass. 8.00 Dummer Golf Time. 8.30 Desert Frolic. 9.00 Failed To Hit.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

6.30 RADIO LEICESTER-CONSTABLES NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,179: 5f 2yd) (10 runners)

1 4521 OSOMENTAL 9 (V,D,F) D Haydn Jones 9-8 (7ex) — A Mackay 6
2 2213 JOINT VENTURE 47 (B,D,S) B Meehan 9-7 — M Tebbutt 10
3 144 BLUE MOVIE 60 (D,S) M Bell 9-4 — M Fenton 7
4 1140 PETITE DANSEUSE 11 (D,F,G) S Dow 9-3 — A Daly (5) 5
5 351 DIVIDE AND RULE 34 (D,F) R Hollinshead 9-1. D Griffiths (5) 3
6 341 BLAZING CASTLE 19 (D,F) W G M Turner 8-13 D Sweeney (7) 8
7 3342 SKYERS FLYER 7 (D,F) Ronald Thompson 8-11. N Connorton 4
8 5341 AYBEEGIRL 11 (V,D,F) Mrs J Cecil 8-10 — P Robinson 9
9 545 THREEPLAY 14 (V) J Akehurst 8-3 — G Carter 1
10 5012 I CAN'T REMEMBER 8 (D,S) P Evans 7-10 — D Wright (3) 2

7-2 Joint Venture, 5-1 Osomental, Divide And Rule, 6-1 Petite Danseuse, 7-1 Aybeegirl, 8-1 Blue Movie, Blazing Castle, 10-1 others

7.00 CWS EXTRA-SUPERINTENDENTS SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,532: 1m 8yd) (14)

1 2211 CONTOSSER 4 (D,F) S Woods 8-11 — W Woods 1
2 3 MIRUS 32 Ronald Thompson 8-11 — N Connorton 6
3 0040 MY KIND 30 (G) N Tinkler 8-11 — Kim Tinkler 13
4 0050 NIGHT OF GLASS 32 (V) D Morris 8-11 — N Day 9
5 0654 SAMARA SONG 13 (V) W G M Turner 8-11 D Sweeney (7) 14
6 540 SPENCER STALLONE 23 Lord Huntingdon 8-11 — D Harrison 5
7 404- THE BLACK DUBH 338 J Quinn 8-11 — J Fanning 7
8 3359 YOUNG FREDERICK 20 K Burke 8-11 — D Biggs 2
9 0 BRIN-LODGE 13 K Bridgwater 8-6 — N Varley (3) 12
10 0000 DUET 16 J King 8-6 — A Mackay 11
11 0000 FLORRIE'M 35 J L Harris 8-6 — P Robinson 3
12 2030 HOME COOKIN' 19 M Pipe 8-6 — M Roberts 10
13 0000 INCA BIRD 8 (B) T Wall 8-6 — D Wright (3) 4
14 0000 WELCOME BRIEF 13 E Alston 8-6 — M Fenton 8

7-4 Contosser, 6-1 Home Cookin', The Black Dubh, 7-1 Spencer Stallone, 8-1 Young Frederick, 10-1 Samara Song, 12-1 My Kind

7.30 INVESCO PRIVATE PORTFOLIO DETECTIVES MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,371: 7f 9yd) (13)

SKY

1 6000 PETULA BOY 23 (V) M McCormack 8-10 — A Clark 10
2 0 RUNNING FREE 14 M Fetherston-Godley 8-10 W J O'Connor 12
3 00 DRIFT 11 M Prescott 8-9 — W Woods 5
4 06 WILLIAM WALLACE 28 C Murray 8-7 — A Mackay 11
5 6 GOODWOOD LASS 83 J Dunlop 8-6 — W Carson 9
6 LOVE ME DO M Johnston 8-6 — J Weaver 13
7 0 CHARM THE STARS 14 M Tompkins 8-5 — P Robinson 7
8 DIJON Bob Jones 8-5 — N Day 4
9 053 THE WYANDOTTE INN 9 R Hollinshead 8-4 — F Lynch (3) 3
10 0 FLOWER HILL LAD 14 D Cosgrove 8-3 — J Stack 2
11 2 SELECT STAR 33 A Jarvis 8-3 — D Wright (3) 1
12 0 SWALLOW BREEZE 21 J Scargill 8-0 — J Fanning 6
13 3 BLUE HOPPER 11 M Channon 7-12 — C Rutter 8

11-4 Love Me Do, 7-2 Select Star, 5-1 Goodwood Lass, 6-1 Blue Hopper, 8-1 Charm The Stars, 12-1 The Wyandotte Inn, Drift, 14-1 others

8.00 DICKINSON & MORRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,993: 7f 9yd) (5)

SKY

1 1585 ANGAAR 28 (BF,F,S) A Stewart 9-7 — M Roberts 4
2 4035 DUMMER GOLF TIME 7 (V,BF,G) Lord Huntingdon 8-3 D Harrison 1
3 0155 MISTER JOEL 20 (B,F) M W Easterby 8-2 — Dale Gibson 2
4 5605 BRANDONVILLE 13 N Tinkler 7-11 — Kim Tinkler 3
5 6000 DHES-C 26 (G) R Hollinshead 7-10 — F Lynch (3) 5

6-4 Angaar, 7-2 Brandonville, 4-1 Mister Joel, 9-2 Dummer Golf Time, 8-1 Dhes-C

8.30 ALLIANCE & LEICESTER SERGEANTS HANDICAP (£5,744: 1m 3f 183yd) (5)

SKY

1 4114 BEAUCHAMP JADE 35 (D,F,G) H Candy 4-10-0 — G Carter 4
2 0141 ARTIC COURIER 21 (D,F) D Cosgrove 5-9-11 — J Stack 5
3 1111 DESERT FROLIC 12 (D,F,S) M Johnston 3-9-3 — J Weaver 1
4 0612 DEAR LIFE 12 (F) Mrs J Cecil 3-8-7 — A Clark 3
5 1555 IN THE MONEY 12 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 7-7-13 F Lynch (3) 2

6-4 Desert Frolic, 7-2 Beauchamp Jade, 4-1 Artic Courier, 6-1 Dear Life, 8-1 In The Money

9.00 HOVIS-CHIEF CONSTABLES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,571: 5f 2yd) (8)

1 FAILED TO HIT M Prescott 9-0 — W Woods 4
2 0-0 JOHN'S LAW 103 M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 — Amanda Sanders (5) 3
3 0-5 CHARISSE DANCER 14 C Wall 8-9 — N Carlisle 2
4 -460 FANCY CLANCY 9 Miss L Siddall 8-9 — J Weaver 6
5 0 MAGIC SOLUTION 20 H Candy 8-9 — C Rutter 8
6 0353 MARINO STREET 8 (V) P Evans 8-9 — J Fortune 5
7 080- POPPY MY LOVE 248 R Harris 8-9 — A Mackay 7
8 SWEET SEVENTEEN H Collingridge 8-9 — M Rimmer 1

3-1 Failed To Hit, 7-2 Marino Street, 4-1 Magic Solution, 5-1 Fancy Clancy, 7-1 Charisse Dancer, 10-1 Poppy My Love, 12-1 John's Law, Sweet Seventeen

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J Cecil, 7 winners from 22 runners, 31.8%; M Pipe, 5 from 26, 19.2%. J Dunlop, 21 from 118, 17.8%; H Candy, 7 from 54, 13.0%; D Morris, 5 from 39, 12.8%; M Prescott, 5 from 43, 11.6%.

JOCKEYS: F Lynch, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; J Stack, 6 from 20, 30.0%. J Weaver, 16 from 82, 19.5%, W Carson, 20 from 124, 16.1%; C Rutter, 8 from 69, 11.6%; G Carter, 12 from 120, 10.0%

Blinkered first time

CATTERICK BRIDGE: 2.30 Tooele. 5.00 April's Joy. LEICESTER: 6.30 Osomental, Threeplay. 7.00 Inca Bird, Night Of Glass, Samara Song. 7.30 Petula Boy. SANDOWN PARK: 8.15 Evidence In Chief. 8.45 Chewit.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

6.15 Tomal — 7.45 Catch The Lights
6.45 Tarski — 8.15 Lear Jet
7.15 BALLYNAKELLY (nap) — 8.45 Gone Savage

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 6.45 TARSKI (nap). 7.15 Tudor Island. 7.45 Nunsharpa.

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.15 HARPERS & QUEEN SELLING HANDICAP
(£4,005: 1m 14yd) (18 runners)

101 (6) 022042 ROCKY WATERS 7 (F,G) (P Chomski) P Burgoyne 7-9-10 — D R McCabe 91
102 (14) 031330 NOEPROB 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Bradshaw) R Hodges 6-9-9 — T Sprake 94
103 (9) 00-2145 RETURN TO BRIGHTON 6 (D,F) (D Morris) J Bradley 4-9-2 — A Eddery (7) 94
104 (10) 40-5622 THATCHMASTER 19 (BF) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 5-9-0 — Paul Eddery [illegible]
105 (16) 0-05004 ACQUITTAL 6 (V,F) (P Sherlock) A Streeter 4-8-13 — R Havlin (5) 97
106 (12) 30-0065 DARING RYDE 24 (D,G) (Mrs L Barratt) J Smith 5-8-13 — J D Smith (5) 98
107 (15) 300026 TOMAL 8 (F) (The Toldy Partnership) R Ingram 4-8-12 — S Whitworth 97
108 (5) 004300 TONY'S MIST 19 (D,G,S) (R Bailey) J Bradley 6-8-11 — J Wilkinson (7) 98
109 (17) 051300- CORONA GOLD 301 (D,G) (T Fitzgerald) J Fitzgerald 6-8-10 — W Ryan 89
110 (18) 080-400 SPHINX LEVELV 76 (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 3-8-7 — S Sanders 92
111 (13) 635056 APARTMENTS ABROAD 8 (V,D,G) (K J McAuliffe) K McAuliffe 3-8-7 J Reid 89
112 (8) 065060 ONLY 25 (R Hannon) R Hannon 3-8-7 — Dane O'Neill (3) 91
113 (1) 0-08600 DOODIES POOL 19 (V,D,G) (S Edwards) P Burgoyne 6-8-6 — C Hodgson 95
114 (2) 080433 SPEEDY SNAPS PRIDE 6 (B) (P Condell) P Condell 4-8-5 — G Hind 90
115 (3) 000-003 NABJELSEDR 24 (S) (Bois De Boulogne Club) A Newcombe 6-8-5 B Thomson 92
116 (4) 58-0354 LITTLE KENNY 13 (V) (P Fetherston-Godley) M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-3 D Holland 95
117 (11) 50/00 SUPER HERO 13 (Laws Medical Systems) A Newcombe 4-8-1 — N Adams 85
118 (7) 00000-0 SOVIET SAKTI 11 (Mrs S Major) P Mitchell 3-8-1 — G Bardwell 89

BETTING: 6-1 Rocky Waters, 7-1 Thatchmaster, 8-1 Return To Brighton, Noeprob, Corona Gold, 9-1 Tomal, 12-1 Speedy Snaps Pride, Acquittal, 14-1 others.

1995: ROI DE LA MER 4-9-11 G Carter (10-1) J Akehurst 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

ROCKY WATERS ½l 2nd of 7 to Pearl Dawn in seller at Brighton (1m, firm). NOEPROB two short-heads third of 15 to Total Rach in seller at Windsor (1m 67yd, good to firm).
RETURN TO BRIGHTON beat Bedazzle ¾l in 19-runner apprentice jockeys' selling handicap at Ripon (1m, good to firm).
THATCHMASTER 2l 2nd of 19 to Orchard Gold in selling handicap at Warwick (1m, good) with DOODIES POOL (2lb better off) 24l 14th and TONY'S MIST 2l 16th. ACQUITTAL 4¾l 4th of 19 to Hawwam in apprentice jockeys' handicap at Redcar (1m, firm) with RETURN TO BRIGHTON (7lb worse off) ½l 5th. SPEEDY SNAPS PRIDE 4½l 3rd of 7 to Mezzoramio in handicap at Leicester (7f, good to firm). NABJELSEDR 4¾l 3rd of 10 to Aclanx in lady riders' handicap at Chepstow (1m, good to firm) with TONY'S MIST (4lb worse off) 13l 9th.
Selection: ROCKY WATERS

6.45 PERCHERON EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,241: 7f 16yd) (11 runners)

201 (4) 02 AIM SEVEN 8 (Sheikh Essa Bin Mubarak) R Hannon 9-0 — Dane O'Neill (3) 87
202 (5) AL MASROOR (Al Muallim Partnership) J Payne 9-0 — B Thomson —
203 (1) BEDOUIN HONDA (Eddy Grimstead Honda Ltd) C Brittain 9-0 — B Doyle —
204 (2) BUBBLY (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 9-0 — T Quinn —
205 (3) COPPER SHELL (A King) A Jones 9-0 — T Sprake —
206 (6) FROST KING (T Blake) Miss B Sanders 9-0 — S Sanders —
207 (9) 44 PARTY ROMANCE 25 (BF) (Abdullah Ali) B Hanbury 9-0 — W Ryan [illegible]
208 (7) 3 ROYAL AMARETTO 15 (The Harlequin Partnership) B Meehan 9-0 — J Reid 92
209 (11) 5 SHOUMATARA 12 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0 — R Cochrane 74
210 (10) SUDEST (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 9-0 — Paul Eddery —
211 (8) TARSKI (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0 — Pat Eddery —

BETTING: 3-1 Tarski, 7-2 Royal Amaretto, 4-1 Party Romance, 6-1 Bubbly, 8-1 Shoumatara, 10-1 Aim Seven, Sudest, 12-1 others.

1995: OBLOMOV 9-0 Paul Eddery (33-1) G Lewis 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

AIM SEVEN 1¼l 2nd of 5 to Song Mist in maiden at Brighton (6f, firm). BUBBLY (foaled May 5, cost 32,000gns). By Rudimentary, half-brother to 7f juvenile winner Champagne Prince, dam twice raced juvenile. PARTY ROMANCE 2l 4th of 12 to Sharmith in listed race at Royal Ascot (7f, good to firm). ROYAL AMARETTO 5l 3rd of 11 to Dahhare in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good). SHOUMATARA 8¾l last of 5 to Flaming West in maiden at York (7f, good). TARSKI (Apr 25). By Polish Precedent, half-brother to 6f juvenile winner Painted Desert and promising 1m winner Phantom Quest; dam 6f winner.
Selection: ROYAL AMARETTO

7.15 JENNIFER'S DIARY HANDICAP
(£3,859: 1m 6f) (10 runners)

SKY

301 (7) 20310-0 TUDOR ISLAND 46 (CD,F,G) (D Sieff) C Brittain 7-10-0 — B Doyle 90
302 (2) 11132/3- ONE VOICE 328 (D,F,G) (P Purdy) K Bishop 6-10-0 — R Perham 88
303 (1) 0/30-610 FARRINGDON HILL 25 (B,CD,F) (J Wallis) W Hern 5-9-12 — R Hills 94
304 (5) 300600 BENFLEET 11 (G,S) (C Donovan) R Armstrong 5-9-8 — J Reid 98
305 (8) 011-111 BALLYNAKELLY 11 (D,F,G) (Y Partnership) R Akehurst 4-8-13 — S Sanders [illegible]
306 (4) 240021 SILKTAIL 11 (D,F) (Pipersons) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-13 — T Sprake 93
307 (10) 033-002 SUPREME STAR 11 (CD,F,G) (J Whelan) P Hedger 5-8-13 — Dane O'Neill (3) 95
308 (9) 3534-14 FROZEN SEA 11 (D,F) (The Oaks Partners) G Enright 5-8-13 — T Quinn 98
309 (3) 004411 REAGANESQUE 24 (F) (Mrs J Spielman) P Murphy 4-7-13 — N Adams 96
310 (6) 608425 PEDALTOTHEMETAL 5 (BF) (G Harris) P Mitchell 4-7-10 — J Quinn 92

Long handicap: Pedaltothemetal 7-9.

BETTING: 9-4 Ballynakelly, 9-2 Silktail, 5-1 Farringdon Hill, 8-1 Supreme Star, Reaganesque, 10-1 Tudor Island, 12-1 Frozen Sea, 14-1 others.

1995: MIDYAN BLUE 5-9-6 R Cochrane (6-1 jt-fav) J Eustace 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

FARRINGDON HILL beat Bold Resolution 4l in 8-runner handicap over course and distance (firm). BENFLEET 5¾l 6th of 13 to Dance So Suite in apprentice jockeys' handicap at Epsom (1m 4f, good). BALLYNAKELLY beat Mister Copyforce 3l in 7-runner handicap at Lingfield (1m 6f, good to firm) with FROZEN SEA (11lb better off) 10½l. SILKTAIL beat SUPREME STAR (3lb better off) 1l in 11-runner rating related stakes at Salisbury (1m 6f, good to firm). FROZEN SEA beat Lucky Coin 4l in 6-runner rating related stakes at Yarmouth (1m 6f, firm). REAGANESQUE beat Tappeto 1¼l in 10-runner handicap at Chepstow (1m 4f, good to firm).
Selection: BALLYNAKELLY

7.45 PANMURE GORDON HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £4,358: 7f 16yd) (6 runners)

SKY

401 (1) 1400-0 MY MARIAM 11 (F) (Dr G Madan Mohan) C Egerton 9-7 — W Ryan 89
402 (5) 1-00411 CATCH THE LIGHTS 11 (F,G) (T Johnsey) R Hannon 9-6 — Dane O'Neill (3) 97
403 (4) 51 SHADOW CASTING 18 (D,F) (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-2 — J D Smith (5) 92
404 (2) 1-02150 CARMARTHEN BAY 12 (G) (D Jones) G L Moore 9-0 — R Cochrane 89
405 (6) 0-545 NUNSHARPA 28 (BF) (T Holland-Martin) J Fanshawe 8-10 — J Reid 93
406 (3) 1-61402 KINGS HARMONY 16 (F,G) (Ten of Hearts) P Makin 8-5 — Pat Eddery [illegible]

BETTING: 7-4 Shadow Casting, 2-1 Catch The Lights, 6-1 Kings Harmony, 7-1 Nunsharpa, 8-1 Carmarthen Bay, 12-1 My Mariam.

1995: FAME AGAIN 9-1 K Fallon (13-8 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MY MARIAM 11l 7th of 12 to Keston Pond in handicap at York (7f, good). CATCH THE LIGHTS beat Smiley Secure 2½l in 8-runner handicap at Salisbury (1m, good to firm). SHADOW CASTING beat Santella Katie neck in 12-runner maiden at Chepstow (7f, good to firm). NUNSHARPA 5l 5th of 12 to Young Duke in handicap at Kempton (7f, good to firm). KINGS HARMONY ¾l 2nd of 18 to Croeso Cynnes in handicap at Windsor (6f, good).
Selection: SHADOW CASTING (nap)

8.15 PARTY LINE CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,485: 1m 2f 7yd) (7 runners)

SKY

501 (5) 40-1320 LEAR JET 46 (D,G) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-3 — T Quinn [illegible]
502 (7) 134-004 OBERONS BOY 8 (B,BF,G) (E Winfield) B Meehan 9-3 — J Reid 86
503 (6) 045120 POLY MY SON 30 (D,F) (Sheet & Roll Convertors Ltd) M Channon 8-9 Pat Eddery 70
504 (2) 100-003 EVIDENCE IN CHIEF 11 (V,F) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 8-6 — Dane O'Neill (3) 80
505 (3) 4-00200 NORTHERN JUDGE 16 (G Grayson) B Hanbury 8-5 — W Ryan 87
506 (1) 3 OPEN AFFAIR 33 (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-4 — J Tate 72
507 (4) 055483 DOMETTES 88 (F) (Albion Investments) R Hannon 8-1 — J F Egan 84

BETTING: 9-4 Lear Jet, 7-2 Oberons Boy, 5-1 Domettes, 6-1 Open Affair, Evidence In Chief, 8-1 Northern Judge, 10-1 Poly My Son.

1995: WOODRISING 7-12 G Bardwell (9-1) Lady Herries 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

LEAR JET 1l 2nd of 7 to Expensive Taste in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, good to firm). EVIDENCE IN CHIEF 4¾l 3rd of 13 to Adic Bay in amateur riders' handicap at Salisbury (1m 4f, good).
NORTHERN JUDGE 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Bag And A Bit in claimer at Warwick (7f, firm). OPEN AFFAIR neck and 2l 3rd of 7 to Sir Arthur Hobbs in claimer at Ayr (1m, good to firm). DOMETTES 5¾l 4th of 12 to Sidecracker in handicap at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, firm).
Selection: LEAR JET

8.45 SURREY RACING HANDICAP
(£4,713: 5f 6yd) (11 runners)

SKY

601 (1) 110654 CHEWIT 18 (V,B) (Batbad (1834) Limited) A Moore 4-10-0 — Candy Morris 93
602 (5) 006460 FANTASY RACING 11 (CD,F,G,S) (Aldridge Racing) M Channon 4-9-12 — R Perham 91
603 (10) 411063 JUCEA 18 (D,F,G) (A Campbell) J Spearing 7-9-9 — J Reid 95
604 (6) 600142 BEAU VENTURE 18 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Sacey) B Palling 8-9-9 — T Sprake 95
605 (2) 551013 FRIENDLY BRAVE 15 (D,F,G,S) (Grid Partnership) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-8 Pat Eddery 95
606 (4) 162030- MILLESIME 317 (D,F) (Boxall Asset Management Ltd) B Hanbury 4-9-6 W Ryan 89
607 (11) 000254 SIZZLING 11 (D,F) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 4-8-10 — Dane O'Neill (3) 93
608 (9) 0240-30 JOBIE 40 (CD,G) (J Redmond) B Hills 6-8-10 — R Hills 92
609 (8) 043002 GONE SAVAGE 7 (CD,F,G,S) (The Square Table) W Musson 8-8-6 R Cochrane [illegible]
610 (7) 000005 SQUIRE CORRIE 7 (B,D,G) (G Harwood) G Harwood 4-8-5 — Gaye Harwood (7) 87
611 (3) 500084 ROBO MAGIC 9 (B,BF,F,G) (A Green and Partners) L Montague Hall 4-8-2 S Sanders 90

BETTING: 3-1 Gone Savage, 9-2 Friendly Brave, 6-1 Chewit, 7-1 Beau Venture, 8-1 Jobie, Sizzling, 10-1 Jucea, 12-1 Fantasy Racing, Squire Corrie, 14-1 others.

1995: MR BERGERAC 4-9-6 T Sprake (20-1) B Palling 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

FANTASY RACING best effort this season, about 2¾l 4th of 8 to My Best Valentine in a handicap at Brighton (7f, firm). BEAU VENTURE 2¾l 2nd of 9 to Lord High Admiral in handicap over course and distance (good to soft) with JUCEA (1lb better off) head 3rd and CHEWIT (5lb better off) 1¼l 3rd.
FRIENDLY BRAVE beat Another Batchworth ¾l in 4-runner handicap at Folkestone (5f, firm) on penultimate start.
MILLESIME 6½l 3rd of 5 to Mr Oscar in conditions race at Leicester (5f, firm) on penultimate start, Sep 95. SIZZLING about ¾l 4th of 11 to Poiriter in handicap at Salisbury (6f, good to firm). JOBIE 2¾l 3rd of 13 to Don Pepe in apprentice jockeys' handicap at Goodwood (6f, good) on penultimate start.
GONE SAVAGE 1l 2nd of 12 to Magic Mail in handicap over course and distance (good to firm) with SQUIRE CORRIE (1lb better off) about 1l 5th.
Selection: GONE SAVAGE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
B Palling	3	11	27.3	J Tate	6	21	28.6
J Spearing	4	18	22.2	Pat Eddery	55	263	20.9
J Dunlop	20	104	19.2	T Quinn	26	192	13.5
Miss G Kelleway	3	16	18.8	Dane O'Neill	4	30	13.3
J Fanshawe	13	71	18.3	W Ryan	10	81	12.3
I Balding	17	100	17.0	J Reid	20	191	10.5

OLYMPIC GAMES

Gymnasts whose skills span much of century

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA

IT WAS the day two men made their comeback to the gymnastics ring. For one, the oldest living Olympic champion, it had been a 60-year break. For the other, arguably the greatest gymnast in history, only a matter of months. The emotional circumstances were very different for Leon Stukelj and Vitalyi Scherbo.

Stukelj (pronounced *stookelli*) was last at an Olympic Games in Berlin, where, at the age of 38, representing the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, he won a silver medal on the rings, to add to the golds from Paris in 1924 and Amsterdam in 1928. He was here in Atlanta, by invitation, to honour the Games' centenary, and to present the medals on the first evening of gymnastics.

He was the the first to accomplish the exercise of holding the rings with the arms extended horizontal. With encouragement, and he does not need much, at 97 he will still raise himself from his chair supported only by his hands on the arms. Just try it.

Scherbo, from Belorussia, won six gold medals in 1992, representing then the Unified Team. The following February, he and his wife, Irina, emigrated to Pennsylvania, wanting their unborn child to be an American citizen, to have security and liberty, unavailable in the liberated Soviet state. Last December, Irina hovered close to death, her car having hit a lamppost, leaving her trapped for 2½ hours with a severed spleen, broken pelvis and seven broken ribs. Gymnastics was suddenly unimportant to Scherbo.

Through her crisis, he cared for her unceasingly. "I did everything for her," he said. "Massage, physiotherapy, washing her, cutting her hair, changing sheets, singing, talking." On his birthday, January 13, she was distraught that she could give him no present, could not even speak with a tube in her mouth. Scherbo consoled himself with vodka, put on weight, ceased training.

When recovered, Irina begged him to return to the gym, to revive the dream of another Games, at the age of 26, to stay in touch so that, perhaps, when they become US citizens two years from now he might represent America in Sydney.

So on Monday he was there, with his Belorussia colleagues, bidding for the team title. Though Scherbo had the second best individual total of the evening, behind Alex Nemov, of Russia,, they failed by two-tenths of a point to beat Ukraine for the bronze medal, Russia taking the gold and China the silver.

Scherbo had defied gravity in the floor exercise, never mind that in the past three years he has had operations on shoulder, arm and knee. When he leaps, he seems to hang in the air, like Baryshnikov [the ballet dancer]. Afterwards, he hastened away to be with Irina. There are the individual title and solo disciplines to come.

The remarkable Stukelj nipped onto the presentation platform as nimbly as he had when appearing at the opening ceremony, where his unexpected presence, with that of Muhammad Ali, had given the occasion a rare sincerity.

A mere 5ft 2in and only slightly below his competing weight of 7st 8lb, Stukelj was dwarfed by the winning Russia team, though the reception he received from a 31,000 crowd at the Georgia Dome was almost as loud as for the winners. This is a man who was a friend of Nurmi, Weissmuller and Owens, who lived, ate and talked with them in the Olympic village.

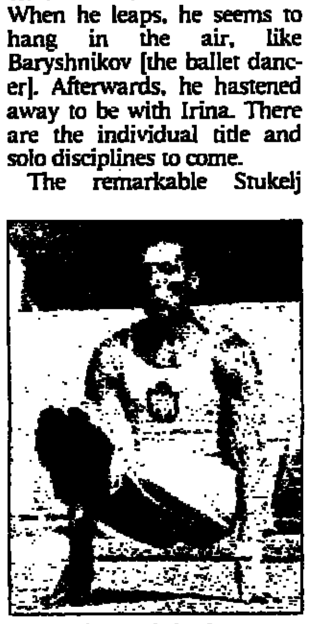
He began gymnastics, the only sport available, at the age of eight in the Slovenian town of Novo Mesto, near Ljubliana, then under Austro-Hungarian rule. He served in the First World War, though he saw no action. Afterwards, he became a lawyer, then a judge, continuing until he was 80. His wife, Lydia, will be 82 this year.

Self-trained and financially supported by his father, a civil servant, and various benefactors, he travelled by train, second class, to the Paris Games, living in a cheap *pension* and buying inexpensive food. He won two golds: the all-round title, and horizontal bar.

In Amsterdam, he won gold on rings, bronze for individual overall and team. He decided not to go to Los Angeles in 1932 because Yugoslavia could not afford to send the whole gymnastics team. In four world championships, he won 11 medals.

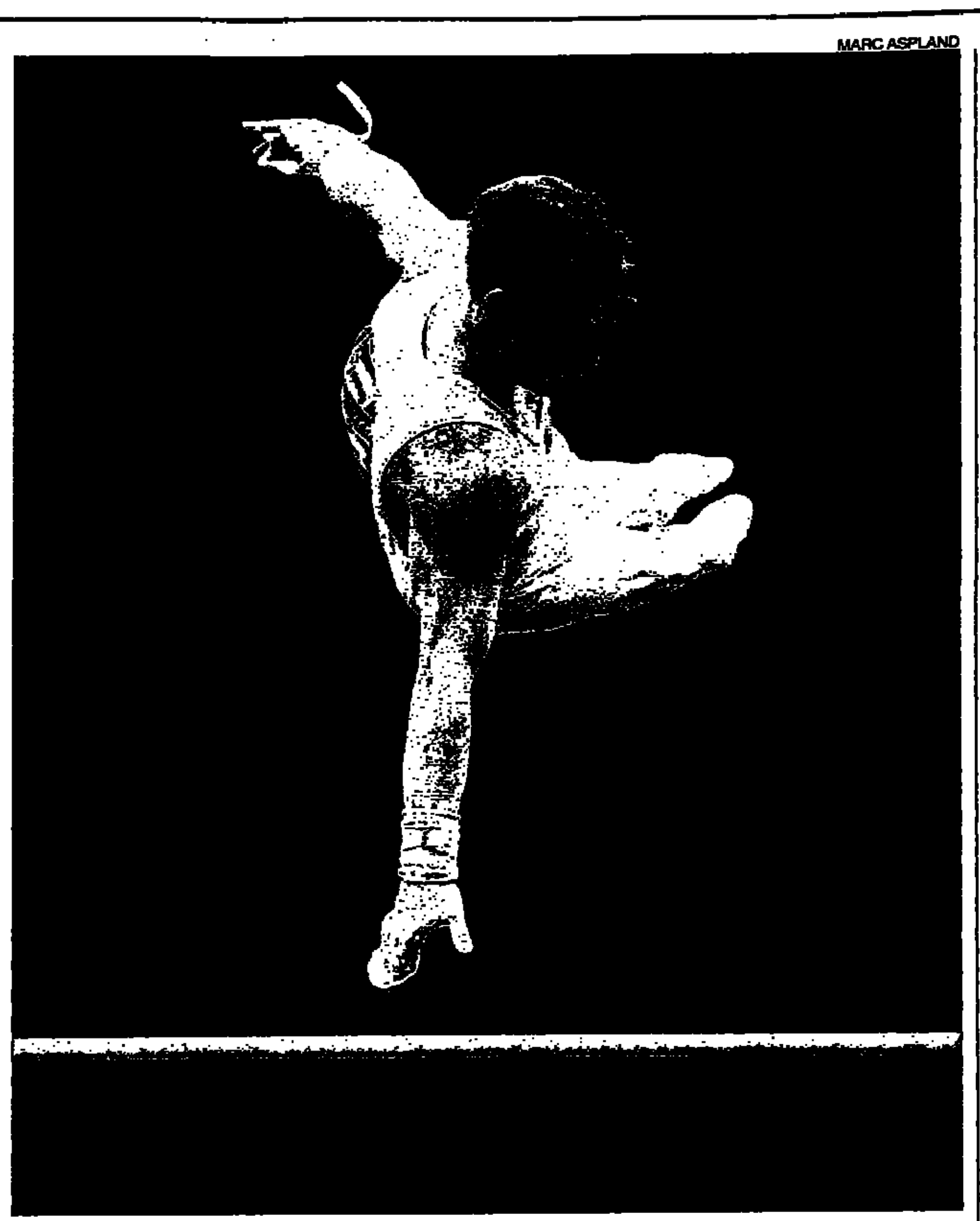
In those days the all-round event included 100 metres, 50 metres swimming, the shot-putt and high jump, and, in 1922, rope climbing. "There were no acrobatics on the horizontal bar," he recalls, "changing and releasing your grip repeatedly, like they do today. Then, it was *elegance*. To do what they do now you have to be professional, in order to train for such complex exercises. I think it's risky. I'd like to have tried, but not to be a professional."

He would like to have presented a medal to Scherbo. "I think he's the best," he said.



Stukelj: medal-winner at three prewar Olympics

MARC ASPLAND



Scherbo, a modern master who is back in competition after a family crisis

Fredericks faces Christie after electing to pursue both titles

FRANKIE FREDERICKS, the first man to beat Michael Johnson over 200 metres for two years and the fastest man over 100 metres this year, intends to tackle the sprint double next week. The Namibian had indicated that he would concentrate on the longer distance, improving the prospects of Linford Christie, his British training partner, who is defending his title in the shorter event.

"At the start of the season, I decided just to run the 200 metres," Fredericks said. "I thought I had a better chance in it. But I'm running some good 100s — in fact, I'm running it better than the 200 this season — and it would be stupid not to go for it.

"If I can't win, I want Linford to win. We'll both be happy for each other if one of us wins."

☐ The chances of Carl Lewis winning a place in the United States 4 x 400m relay team were all but discounted by the team coach. Lewis, 35, still harbours hopes of winning ten Olympic gold medals, but Erv Hunt said: "Somebody would have to get hurt — probably five or six guys."

ATLANTA BRIEFS

Obree sets out

Cycling: Graham Obree begins his quest for a gold medal in the track qualifying rounds today knowing that a dramatic improvement in his form and fortunes is required. The world record-holder was 15 seconds off the pace in the World Cup 4,000m individual pursuit final last month.

"The British Cycling Federation are hoping for a miracle, and knowing Graeme they could get one," Chris Boardman, who won the pursuit title four years ago and will contest the road events this time, said.

Among Obree's serious challengers are Andrea Collinelli, of Italy, who lost last year's world final to the Briton in Colombia, Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, and Philippe Ermenault, from France.

Boxer banned

Boxing: John Kelman, of Barbados, has been banned from amateur boxing for one year and sent home after angrily throwing a glove when beaten by Janos Nagy, of Hungary, in a first-round featherweight bout. The contest was stopped midway through the third round. "He threw the glove in the ring. It was very disgraceful," Anwar Chowdhry, the International Amateur Boxing Association president, said.

Youssef Chaalia, a Tunisian judge, will not officiate further in the boxing competition after it was alleged that he was guilty of improper scoring over the weeked.

Suleymanoglu raises the gold standard

John Goodbody reports on the little Turk who stands supreme in world of weightlifting

THE greatest weight has finally been lifted. Naim Suleymanoglu, of Turkey, has gone where no weightlifter has gone before by winning an Olympic title for the third successive Games.

In 1960, the feat defeated Tommy Kono, an American, of whom his coach said: "Kono is dedicated. Other weightlifters bring their wives to contests. You can't win that way unless the wife is co-operative and accepts the fact that in a weightlifter's life, the barbell comes first."

In 1980, it defeated Vasily Alexeyev, the super-heavyweight from the Soviet Union, who, after achieving his second Olympic title four years earlier, had said: "Perhaps my wife will now give me some respect."

Amid the almost hysterical euphoria of his countrymen on Monday night, Suleymanoglu took the featherweight title with a total lift for the snatch and the clean and jerk of 335kg, five kilograms more than the world record he himself had held.

Suleymanoglu, 29, finished 2.5kg clear of Valerios Leonidis, of Greece, with both competitors hoisting a world record in the clean and jerk of 187.5kg. The record, however, belonged to the Greek because he was the lighter man. Both men, therefore, raised overhead almost three times their own bodyweight.

Suleymanoglu can afford to be generous and allow Leonidis the record. He is now the most celebrated weightlifter in modern history. He is also the most expensive.

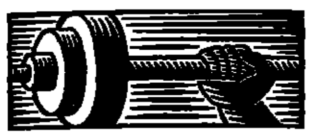
Born in Bulgaria, he would have won the 1984 title but for the communist boycott of the Games. Suleymanoglu was a member of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria and the following year, he was ordered to change his original name of Suleimanov to Shalamanov.

Furious at the insult, he defected during the 1986 World Cup in Australia and went to Ankara. There was one problem. Suleymanoglu could not lift in the 1988 Olympics without permission from the Bulgarian authorities, who were scarcely likely to give it because they regarded their global dominance in weightlifting as sacrosanct.

However, the Turks paid the Bulgarians an estimated £600,000, the sport's first transfer fee, to get permission for Suleymanoglu to compete in Seoul.

His victory in 1988 was hailed in Turkey as if their football team had won the World Cup. He was met at Ankara airport by the President and about a million cheering people.

He is only 4ft 10in tall and has a boyish face that makes women want to cuddle him. However, it would be like cuddling a block of concrete. He has a wide chest and thighs like traffic bollards.



On Monday, he eased ahead of Leonidis, whom he only beat on lighter bodyweight to take the world title last year, on the snatch. Suleymanoglu raised 147.5kg and Leonidis 145kg. The onus was now on Leonidis on the second movement, the clean and jerk. After both lifters had exceeded the previous world record with 187.5kg, Leondis asked for another 2.5kg on his third and final attempt to equal Suleymanoglu's total of 335kg and win on lighter bodyweight.

The Turk retreated to a cubicle, unable to watch. Leonidis pulled the weight and squatted underneath it. However, he could not rise and the bar fell to the floor. Of the 5,000 people in the hall, Suleymanoglu was the last to know that he was the champion.

Suleymanoglu: defected from Bulgaria to Turkey

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A correspondent claims this hand actually happened. I have my doubts, but if true it makes a delightful story of human greed.

Dealer South **North-South game** **Rubber bridge**

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ K Q J
♦ A Q 10
♣ 7 6 5

♠ 8 6 2
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ J 7 3 2
♣ K 3

N
W E
S

♠ 6 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 9 8 4
♣ J 9 8 4 2

♠ A K 10 9
♥ A 6 4
♦ K 6 5
♣ A Q 10

S	W	N	E
2 NT	Pass	3 C	Pass
3 S	Pass	6 S	All pass

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: ten of hearts

At first sight it seemed a routine hand to South after the passive heart lead. He drew trumps in three rounds with the ace, king and queen, then cashed all his remaining red suit winners ending in dummy. Then he led a club from dummy and finessed the ten. He was now in a position to claim — if this lost to the king, he had the rest of the tricks: if it lost to the jack, West would be endplayed and forced to lead a club into South's tenace or concede a ruff and discard.

It did not go quite like that. West followed smoothly to the ten of clubs with his three. Time stood still while declarer ponderously added up the scores, eventually discovering that an overtrick would tip the balance and earn his side an extra point.

You can see the sequel — declarer crossed to dummy with the last trump and led another club. On the ball, East followed with the jack (as he would have to do if he had started with both honours), declarer finessed the queen, and lost the last two tricks.

☐ It was another poor day for Great Britain in the European junior championships in Cardiff. In addition, the Great Britain schools team lost their opening match 10-20 to Israel.

JUNIOR STANDINGS (after 11 rounds): 1, Norway 222pts; 2, Denmark 219; 3, Poland 215.5; 4, Israel 214; 5, Russia 193; 6, Iceland 189; 7 equal, Ireland and Sweden 185; 9, Hungary 184; 10, Lithuania 182.5; 22, Great Britain 130

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British triumph

For the first time since 1983 England have won both the Glorney Cup, the European junior competition for boys, and the Faber Cup, the equivalent competition for girls. Having beaten Germany and France, England defeated Holland by 3½ points to 1½ to take the Glorney Cup. Meanwhile, in the Faber Cup, England's 3-0 whitewash of Germany ensured a comfortable first prize.

Sadler wins

Matthew Sadler, the reigning British champion, has scored the greatest triumph of his career so far, winning the international tournament in Oberwart, Austria, with the fine score of eight (out of a possible nine). Sadler's performance will bring his rating to an extremely impressive 2,645 points, a status which few British players have achieved. Here is his best game from the tournament.

White: Groszpeter
Black: Sadler

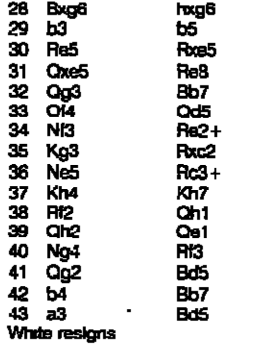
Oberwart, July 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nc6
5	Nc3	Qc7
6	Be3	a6
7	Bd3	Nf6
8	0-0	Ne5
9	h3	Bc5
10	f4	d6
11	Kh1	Ng6
12	Qe1	Bd7
13	Nb3	Bxe3
14	Qxe3	0-0
15	Rae1	e5
16	f5	Ne7
17	g4	Bc6
18	Kh2	Rae8
19	g5	Nh5
20	Qf3	Nf4
21	Ne2	Nxf5
22	Nxf4	exf4
23	Qxf4	Ne7
24	e5	dxe5
25	Qxe5	Qd8
26	Nd4	Bd5
27	Qf4	Ng6
28	Bxg6	hxg6
29	b3	b5
30	Re5	Rxe5
31	Qxe5	Re8
32	Qg3	Bb7
33	Qf4	Qd5
34	Nf3	Re2+
35	Kg3	Rxc2
36	Ne5	Rc3+
37	Kh4	Kh7
38	Rf2	Qh1
39	Qh2	Qe1
40	Ng4	Rf3
41	Qg2	Bd5
42	b4	Bb7
43	a3	Bd5

White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SCHULTZE
a. To traverse on skis
b. Bavarian yodelling
c. Gunpowder

SLANK
a. Lank and slimy
b. To fish with explosive
c. Sailor's bully beef

SCYPHUS
a. A curved dagger
b. A small boat
c. The corona of a flower

SNARLER
a. A Lancashire terrier
b. The Lower Master at Eton
c. A pedlar

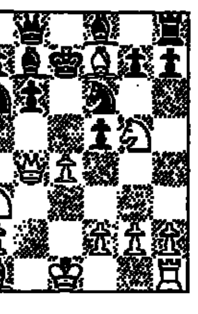
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Blake — Hooke, London 1923. White has already managed to disturb the black king and now completes the disruption with a fine sacrifice leading to a quick checkmate. Can you see how?

Solution, page 46



FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 3 Chicago 2; Houston 1 San Diego 0; Cincinnati 5 Philadelphia 2 (first game); Cincinnati 5 Philadelphia 3 (second game); Atlanta 8 St Louis 6.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City 5 Boston 2; Minnesota 9 Baltimore 5; Texas 6 New York 1; Cleveland 4 Toronto 2. Oakland 6 Chicago 5; California 1 Detroit 0; Seattle 8 Milwaukee 3.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three) Bristol: Gloucestershire 308-3 dec (M G N Windows 81, M P Hunt 77 not out, N J Tranor 70, M J Cawdron 68 not out); Durham 44-0. Hove: Sussex 310 (J W Hall 92; M Amjad 7-103); Worcestershire 4-0 The Oval: Surrey 352-9 (I J Ward 67, B C Hollioake 61, A D Brown 57, J A Knott 54 not out) v Hampshire. Walmley CC: Essex 242 (T P Hodgson 52; G Welch 4-85); Warwickshire 126-1 Harrow CC: Middlesex 382-4 dec (D J Goodchild 100 not out, O A Shah 97, D C Nash 74 not out, C M Gupte 61), Yorkshire 16-0. Cleethorpes: Nottinghamshire 365-7 (N A Gie 72, J R Wileman 63, M P Dowman 63) v Glamorgan. Bedford School: Northamptonshire 390-4 dec (A J Swann 112, T C Walton 87, K J Innes 66, M B Loye 60 not out); Lancashire 56-0. Hinckley: Leicestershire 301-7 dec (D Stevens 63, P Whitticase 61 not out); Derbyshire 6-0 MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Jesmond: Staffordshire 232-5 (P F Shaw 70, S J Dean 55) and 40-0, Northumberland 222-7 (T W Adcock 93, G R Morris 64 not out; A J Dutton 4-58) Colwyn Bay: Wales 206-5 (D Dyer 76) and 49-1, Devon 225-3 (N A Folland 93 not out)

FOOTBALL

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Harrow Borough 1 Tottenham XI 0, Farsley Celtic 0 Bradford 5, Pickering 0 Scarborough 3; Kettering 1 Nottingham Forest 1, Exeter 2 Chelsea 1; Finn Harps 0 Celtic XI 0; Home Farm Everton 1 Norwich 2; Cork City 0 Southampton 1.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: NRA Imperial meeting: The Times Challenge Cup (after tie-shoot): 1, J Carmichael (Bromsgrove) 50 10/24.4/V; 2, A Jones (Twickenham) 50 10/24.4/5, 3, N Brasier (LMRA) 50 10/24 4/4. Donegall Cup (300yds). Tie-shoot: 1, J Pugsley (Pesca) 25 5; 2, W Richards (Gun Room Lizards) 25 4, 3, J Bloomfield (LMRA) 25 3 Duke of Cambridge (900yds) Tie-shoot: 1, R Hodgins (HAC) 23.2; 2, W Tait (Harare) 22.1 Corporation (1,000yds): 1, B Newman (United States Veterans) 49.7. 2, F/Lt A Gent (RAF) 49 6; 3, S Thomas (Central Bankers) 49.6 Palma Aggregate: 1, Gent 194.20; 2, Thomas 193.21; 3, J Underwood (O Guildfordians) 193 21. Wimbledon Cup (600yds). Tie: J Paton (Canada) and T Kidner (West Atholl) 50 9 Young Rifleman's Aggregate: 1, P Hatfield (Derbyshire) 148.18, 2, J Harris (Athelings) 148 14; 3, S Harding (Sevenoaks School) 147.20. Elkington Aggregate: 1, Underwood 146 16; 2, Thomas 145.17; 3, Gent 146 14. Belgian Cup (teams short range) 1, Lloyds Bank A 555 75; 2, Uppingham Veterans 585 67; 3, O Epsomian A 584 81. Howcroft Newspaper Aggregate (on count-back): 1, Gent; 2, N Brasier (LMRA); 3, D Luckman (Bath Univ) all 150 26 NRA 1500 (pistol): 1, R Sewell 1,477.73; 2, C Sears 1,472.71; 3, N Jones 1,471 77 Stock Exchange Aggregate: 1, Warburton 150 23; 2, S/Ldr D Calvert (RAF) 149.24, 3, Gent 149.24. Daily Telegraph Trophy (tie-shoot): 1, Thomas 25.4; 2, J Colquhoun (Athelings) 24 4, 3, R Coventry (Manchester) 24 1

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Exeter 46 (S Wigg 15) Long Eaton 50 (N Tatum 14); Wolverhampton 53 (P Karlsson 15) Eastbourne 41 (M Dugard 14).

CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Ryde (IoW) 40 Swindon 38; Reading 37 Linlithgow 40

SQUASH

CAIRO: Junior men's championship: Team event: Second round: Pool A: Egypt 3 France 0 Pool B: England 3 Malaysia 0 (L Beachill bt Ong Beng Hee 9-0, 5-0 ret; J Russell bt M Soo 6-9, 5-9, 9-6, 9-6, 9-0; P Allen bt R Lee 9-1, 9-4, 9-4. Pool C: Germany 3 Italy 0. Pool D: Finland 2 South Africa 1 Pool E: Holland 2 India 1, Scotland 2 Brazil 1 (A Tasker lost to L Couto 6-9, 9-6, 2-9, 9-3, 8-10; C Small bt R Nascimento 9-3, 9-7, 9-1, D Knowles bt G Recchione 9-1, 9-2, 9-5). Pool G: Spain 3 Bermuda 0. Austria 3 Cyprus 0 Third round: Pool A: Switzerland 2 France 1. Pool B: England 2 Australia 1 (England names first: L Beachill bt S Boswell 9-3, 9-1, 9-1; J Russell lost to A Ricketts 9-5, 9-10, 6-9, 8-10; A Grant bt P Peters 9-6, 9-5, 9-0). Pool C: Hong Kong 2 Italy 1. Pool D: New Zealand 2 South Africa 1. Pool E: Holland 3 Kenya 0 Pool F: Brazil 2 Singapore 1. Pool G: Nigeria 3 Bermuda 0; Spain 3 Cyprus 0

TENNIS

KITZBÜHEL: Men's tournament: First round: M Hipfl (Austria) bt S Koubek (Austria) 6-2, 6-3; E Sánchez (Sp) bt T Schiessling (Austria) 6-3, 6-4; D Rikl (Cz) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; D Balducci (It) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6-4, 6-1; F Meligeni (It) bt A Portas (Sp) 6-3, 7-6; J-A Viloca (Sp) bt H Wittschnig (Austria) 6-3, 6-3; L Burgsmüller (Ger) bt M Charpentier (Arg) 6-3, 6-2. G Blanco (Sp) bt A Cherkassov (Russ) 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; O Camporese (It) bt Y el Aynaoui (Mor) 6-4, 6-4. M Zabaleta (Arg) bt J Tarango (US) 1-6, 6-1, 6-1; W Kowalski (Pol) bt J Cunha-Silva (Por) 6-3, 7-6; N Marques (Por) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-2, 5-7, 7-6; N Kiefer (Ger) bt L Tieleman (It) 6-2, 6-3.

QUEENSWOOD: European Under-18 junior championship (selected results): Girls: Second round: A Sebova (Slovakia) bt T Wielrzykowska (Pol) 6-1, 6-1; N Stoudenara (Bul) bt R Teperberg (Isr) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; J Wohr (Ger) bt L Skavronskaya (Russ) 6-3, 6-4. K Srebotnik (Slovakia) bt R Topalova (Bul) 6-0, 6-1; J Hvostenic (Cro) bt I Kastnauskaite (Lith) 6-0, 6-1. E Le Bescond (Fr) bt E Pakay (Hun) 6-3, 6-3; D Huppes (Holl) bt L Cartwright (GB) 6-4, 7-6; E Last (Bel) bt N Ostrovskaia (Belo) 6-4, 7-5; G Ostermann (Ger) bt O Golimbioschi (Rom) 7-5, 4-6, 6-1, Z Gubacsi (Hun) bt N Arsal (Turk) 6-0, 6-0, R Sotlova (Cz) bt M Gasper (Por) 6-2, 6-3, S Unckova (Slovakia) bt E Trujillo (Sp) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1; M Mihalache (Rom) bt Z Ondraskova (Cz) 7-5 6-3.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

EXACTSAVE LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2186773

NOTICE TO CREDITORS on 16 July 1996 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Fishman of Arthur Andersen, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT was appointed Liquidator by the Members. The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Martin Fishman, Arthur Andersen, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 16 September 1996. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4 182A(6) that on 16 October 1996 he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 16 September 1996 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved. The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

Dated 19.7.96
M. FISHMAN, Liquidator

COYNE AIR LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K. P. Barry, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co. PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 18th July 1996. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 18th July 1996
K.P. BARRY, FCA, Liquidator

In the High Court of Justice London
D MORTIMERS (MACSPEED) LIMITED
D MORTIMERS (DISTRIBUTION) LIMITED
D MORTIMERS COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SERVICES LIMITED
D MORTIMERS MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED
D MORTIMERS (PRINT SERVICES) LIMITED
D MORTIMERS TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at Hilton National Hotel, Elton Way, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD2 8HA on Tuesday 6th August 1996 at 11.00am.

1) To consider my proposals under S23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee pursuant to S.26 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A proxy form should be completed and returned to me by the date of the meeting if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of your claim.

Dated 19th July 1996
R ROBINSON,
Joint Administrator.
Buchler Phillips Traynor,
Blackfriars House, Parsonage
Manchester, M3 2HN

ZETA TECHNOLOGY LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, David E M Mond, FCA, FCCA of Hodgsons, George House, 48 George Street, Manchester M1 4HF was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 17th July 1996.

Dated 17th July 1996
D.E.M. MOND, Liquidator

LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 1987 (NSW)
NOTICE AS TO CLAIMS AGAINST SOLICITORS FIDELITY FUND

In the matter of Ronald Adrian Powles, formerly of Allen Allen & Hemsley, who practised at Level 46, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney, Australia and also at 8th floor, 9 Basinghall Street, London, England and later at Level 6, Bucklersbury House, 3 Queen Victoria Street, London, England. Notice is given that 8 November 1996 is fixed as the day on or before which claims must be made by all persons claiming to have suffered pecuniary loss because of failure by Ronald Adrian Powles to account for, pay or deliver money or other valuable property entrusted to him or an associate in the course of his practice as a solicitor. Money or other valuable property received by or entrusted to the solicitor in the course of his practice as trustee, agent, bailee or stakeholder (or in any other capacity) is also covered. Claims should be lodged with the Secretary of the Law Society of New South Wales. Claims not received on or before the above date will not be considered and no payment will be made from the Solicitors' Fidelity Fund unless further time is allowed.

Dated: 15 July 1996
FOR THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
M. RICHARDSON
Secretary
170 Phillip Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
AUSTRALIA

ZETA SERVICES LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, David E.M Mond, FCA, FCCA of Hodgsons, George House, 48 George Street, Manchester, M1 4HF was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 17th July 1996.

Dated 17th July 1996
D.E.M. MOND, Liquidator

New Company Design Workshop Limited (IN LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that a dividend will be paid within a period of four months from the last date of proving. The last date for creditors to prove claims in this liquidation is 19 August 1996.

Creditors of the above named Company should send their addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned, K.D. Goodman, FCA, Leonard Curtis & Co. PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF. Under Rule 11.3(2) a Liquidator is not obliged to deal with claims lodged after the date of proving.

DATED THIS 18 July 1996
K.D. GOODMAN, Liquidator

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
BROAD LABORATORIES PLC
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: Gateway House, 302-308 High Street, Slough Berkshire SL1 1LY
Company Number: 02104181

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.106 and 4.118 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 17 July 1996 James Robert Drummond Smith was appointed liquidator of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up) in place of John Charles Heath and Alan David Kenningham. The former Joint Liquidators who were removed from office, have not yet obtained their release.

Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference YFB/JMJ.

Deloitte & Touche
PO Box 810
Hill House
1 Little New Street
London EC4A 3TR

THE MILLENNIUM CRACKER COMPANY LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 30th August 1996 to send in their *full forenames* and surname, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, K.D. Goodman, FCA, of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 19th day of July 1996
K.D. GOODMAN, Liquidator

THE MILLENNIUM CRACKER COMPANY LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I K.D. Goodman, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 19th July 1996. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

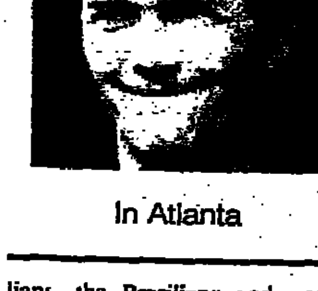
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 19th July 1996
K D GOODMAN, FCA, Liquidator

OLYMPIC GAMES: NEW DISCIPLINE GETS MIXED RECEPTION A LONG WAY FROM RUISLIP LIDO

Beach party lacks good vibrations

ANDREW LONGMORE



In Atlanta

WHATEVER traces of dignity that remained in the modern Olympics vanished on the road to Atlanta Beach yesterday. There is nothing new in the concept of bronzed bodies frolicking about in the name of sport. The ancient Greeks did it all the time. But not, I suspect, to the tune of the Beach Boys and the nasal tones of a downhome commentator exhorting everyone "to give a big Atlanta Beach welcome to the two teams".

"Match-point opportunity no 1, 14 serves four," he announced, moments before the Bournemouth-beach-trained pair of Amanda Glover and Audrey Cooper were beaten by the formidable team of Natalie Cook and Kerri-Ann Pottharst, from Australia. "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first day of Olympic beach volleyball at the Centennial Olympics."

I know, hard to believe, isn't it?

There are two reasons why beach volleyball has made its debut in these Olympics: first, it is visual, which means that the women wear very little and the men have big muscles; second, the United States will, in all probability, win two gold medals. They ought to: they have more sand than most countries, they invented the game (in California, 66 years ago, apparently) and they also have more teams than any other country.

The United States, as host country, is allowed three teams. Every other country is allowed two in each of the competitions, men and women. As there are 24 men's teams and 18 women's in the Olympic events, the percentage chances of home success are high. That heightens the interest of NBC, the US television network system, which has, in any case, narrowed down its coverage to just the home teams and can be guaranteed to glorify a home victory.

The Americans, like the Australians, the Brazilians and, more perversely, the Dutch and the Japanese, are professional. Top players can earn £500,000 a year from the professional circuit in the States. Gabrielle Reece, the 6ft 3in Amazonian star of the Nike advertisements, will not get out of bed for less than £25,000 to do a modelling session. Her beach volleyball is clearly not as hot. She did not qualify for any of the American teams, which must have pained her sponsors.

The British, bless them, are very amateur. A few afternoons on the Ruislip Lido with a portable roll-out-your-own-net system, goggles for rain or shine, and a session or two alongside Bournemouth pier. If they want to practise in winter, they have to travel to Holland and Italy. Their sport costs them money. But it was worth it: they have reached the Olympic Games.

"And we deserve to be here," Cooper said. "People still regard beach volleyball as something to do when you're on holiday, until they come and see it. As you can see, it's a great spectator sport. It's just another discipline of volleyball." All of that is true. No one can decry the dedication of the two British players, even if one of them, Glover, has a natural advantage.

She was born in Weymouth and works as a recreation attendant at the Britannia Leisure Centre in Hackney. Cooper, at 32, the elder by six years, works in the publicity department of Racal, the team's sponsors. Both played indoor volleyball, the six-a-side version, until Britain ceased to field a women's team. "We both wanted to keep playing internationally and this was the only way," Glover added. "It's more fun, anyway."

More exciting, too. Up to a point. The athleticism required for two people to cover nine square metres of court is unquestionable, but the game lacks variety. One player, usually the smaller and quicker of the two, runs around at the back of the court, making saves and setting up the kill for the front player. Diving is compulsory, along with high fives, 30-second breaks and loud rock music.

Not only the costumes are stamped "wardrobe by *Baywatch*": the bitching is pure soap opera, too. The American duo of Holly McPeak and Nancy Reno split up last year, allegedly because Reno, a strong feminist, objected to her partner's off-season breast implants. They are back together "on the same page", as they put it, although Reno wore a T-shirt to McPeak's bikini top yesterday.

The Brazilians are equally hot-tempered. "Sometimes I go crazy and I want to kill Sandra," Jackie Silva, the national champion, said of Sandra Pires, her partner. "When I have a bathing suit on, I feel like it's time to fight," she added. An afternoon on Ruislip Lido might cool the blood.

BOB GALBRAITH

Monica Rodriguez, of Brazil, dives to keep the ball alive but could not prevent a 17-15 defeat by Italy yesterday

Devalued noble art fights to make its point

By Andrew Longmore

THE air is thick with conspiracy theories down at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, home of the Georgia Tech basketball team and venue for the Olympic boxing.

The latest has it that Muhammad Ali's climactic, almost tragic, role in the opening ceremony was designed principally to advertise the awful effects of boxing, thereby giving Juan Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, further soil with which to bury such a mucky sport. Samaranch, it is said, would prefer to have roller-hockey or some other such sponsor-friendly sport in his Olympics instead of boxing.

Boxing has responded by trying to make itself an acceptable, clean, healthy, look-at-me sport. Headguards have long been compulsory, though their benefits have yet to be proved conclusively, and the scoring system in which five judges press blue or red buttons to record successful punches makes it seem as if no one connects at all. Three of the five must press within one second to register the point. A flurry of blows will be rewarded by one point. Bouts are won by scores such as 8-6 and judges who award too many points are likely to find themselves dismissed. It is only a matter of time until an Olympic bout is won by one punch to nil.

But NBC has still refused to televise the boxing in prime time for fear of alienating its female viewers and because watching a succession of Cubans win gold is bad for national morale. Since Roy Jones was deprived of gold in Seoul by a fixed verdict in favour of a Korean, the American networks have rather lost their taste for amateur boxing, though tickets are hot property on the black market.

The Cubans excepted, the victors are not necessarily the best boxers. They are the ones who play the system the best. It has always been so, but this is more blatant. The well-coached fighters know exactly where the judges are — two are positioned on one side of the ring, one each on the other three sides — and play to the gallery accordingly.

"There is no point in throwing three, four or five-punch combinations," Ian Irwin, the British team coach, said. "The scoring machines won't record them. So you have to throw single and double punches."

British amateur boxing is fighting for its life too, as Irwin is well aware. A fax from John Morris, secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, on the morning of the preliminary bouts contained some trace of good news. Not only did Morris wish the British boxers, all two of them, the best of luck, he suggested that Irwin come and have a chat on his return home. "There has to be more continuity between amateur and professional boxing," Irwin said. "And more money coming into the amateur coffers to stop talented young men from taking the professional shilling before they are ready."

Something has to be done. Where once Britain sent a whole team of boxers, and produced its share of Olympic champions, it is now a third-world boxing nation. Only the featherweight, David Burke, qualified for the Olympics by reaching the last four of the European championships. Britain's heavyweight representative, Fola Okesola, who faces Nate Jones, the American champion, tomorrow, gained entry through the tradesmen's entrance when another qualified boxer pulled out. It is a sorry tale.

Burke's defeat by the German, Falk Huste, in his first bout reduced the British presence by 50 per cent. Burke, aged 21 and from the good boxing territory of Liverpool, did not play the system. Instead of going forward and piling on the points, he retreated and allowed his more experienced opponent to dictate the bout. By the time he had worked out a method, the contest was out of reach.

"There is no shortage of talent, but the young are turning professional quicker now," Irwin said. "We need time and money to nurture that talent. We also have to teach them to box to the scoring system — box and not get hit."

Not everyone agrees that the scoring system favours good defence. Critics point out that showy punching, mostly to the head, brings more rewards than solid body blows. Boxing is not an exact science. Artistic impression is important as well, the feel of a fight, who is the stronger and cleverer. If boxing is to be reduced to simply an antiseptic pit-pat, perhaps it is time to bring on roller hockey.

Madrigali makes most of breeze to win first race

From Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent
in Savannah

JEFF MADRIGALI, the American Soling skipper, found a breeze that few others, including Andy Beadsworth, of Great Britain, could detect at the Olympic regatta here early yesterday, to secure victory in the first race.

The Solings was one of only three classes that managed to complete a race on the first day as calms, followed by thunderstorms, forced the postponement of 13 of the scheduled 16 races.

While all the leading boats, including Beadsworth, who had established himself in seventh, a position he held to the finish, went down the middle, Madrigali went out to the right. Sailing higher, he swept into the leeward mark in the lead and was never passed.

At the finish, he was 5.5sec ahead of Georgy Shayduko, the world champion, in second with Marshall King, of Ireland, in an excellent third place. Jochen Schuemann, of Germany, who had followed Madrigali wide, was eventually fifth.

Stig Westergaard, who is sailing the Spanish team's reserve boat after his British-built yacht was found to be illegal, finished a lowly eighteenth in the 22-strong fleet. Yesterday, Petticrow's, of Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, who built the yacht, issued a statement saying it had been built in good faith and that "every effort had been made to ensure it would comply with Soling Class rules".

Glyn Charles and George Skuodas, of Great Britain, finished fifteenth in the Star class. The race was won on the water by Ross McDonald, of Canada, but he was disqualified after a protest over a mark-rounding incident with the defending champion, Mark Reynolds, of the United States. Torben Grael, the Brazilian, was promoted to first with Rod Davis, of New Zealand, second and Reynolds third.

The only other class to complete a race was the Finns, in which Richard Stenhouse, of Britain, came eighteenth out of 29. The race was won by José María van der Ploeg, of Spain.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Baseball

Round-robin

Holland 14 Australia 8; Nicaragua 7 Italy 2; United States 7 South Korea 2.

Basketball

Men's preliminary round

POOL A: Croatia 109 China 78; Argentina 65 Lithuania 61, United States 87 Angola 54.

POOL B: Greece 89 Brazil 87; Puerto Rico 98 South Korea 86; Yugoslavia 91 Australia 68.

Boxing

Featherweight

FIRST ROUND: R Paliani (Rus) bt Shin Soo-young (S Kor) pts; P Ndou (SA) bt C Patton (Can) rsc 1st rnd, K Somluck (Thai) bt L Seda (P Rico) pts; D Attah (Nigeria) bt L Ipera (PNG) pts; J Nagy (Hun) bt J Kelman (Barb) rsc 3rd rnd; P Chacon (Arg) bt T Grey (Jam) pts; J Lebon (Maur) bt S Yagli (Tur) pts; F Huste (Ger) bt D Burke (GB); U Ibragimov (Uzb) bt N Lamgen (Mong) rsc 2nd rnd; R Peden (Aus) bt M Achik (Mor) pts; S Todorov (Bul) bt E Shestakov (Ukr) pts, R de Brito (Br) bt N Bahari (Indo) pts; L Aragon (Cuba) bt N Madjhound (Alg) pts; F Mayweather (US) bt B Tleganov (Kaz) rsc 2nd rnd; A Gevorgyan (Arm) bt E Konemegui (Cam) pts.

Middleweight

FIRST ROUND: Z Erdei (Hun) bt J P Lopez (Mex) rsc 3rd rnd; T Borowski (Pol) bt M Mosbahi (Mor) pts; H Moto (Japan) bt Chen Tao (China) pts; A Kakauridze (Georgia) bt R Araneda (Chile) pts, M Bahari (Alg) bt T Marcus (Barb) rsc 2nd rnd; B Magee (Ire) bt R Thompson (Can) pts; B Tetsia (Cam) bt Moon Lim-chul (S Kor) pts; R Rodriguez (Br) bt B Gasio (W Sam) pts; R Wells (US) bt S Mollaei (Iran) pts; D Yarbekov (Uzb) bt B Johansen (Den) rsc 3rd rnd; L Plachetka (Cz) bt D Mathunjawa (Swaz) pts. A Hernandez (Cuba) bt S Kbary (Egypt) pts; S Ottke (Ger) bt J-P Mendy (Fr) pts; A Lebziak (Rus) bt R Donaldson (Jam) pts; J Crawford (Aus) bt S Shivute (Nam) pts.

Equestrianism

Three-day event, teams

LEADERS AFTER DRESSAGE: 1, United States 123.0pts, 2, Great Britain 127 8; 3, New Zealand 135 6; 4, Canada 140.2; 5, Australia 157 0; 6, Germany 157.8; 7, Japan 161.8, 8, Italy 166 4; 9, Ireland 167.6, 10, Sweden 171.8; 11, Spain 172 6; 12, France 176.6

Fencing

Men's individual foil

QUARTER-FINALS: A Puccini (It) bt Kim Young-ho (S Kor) 15-4; W Wienand (Ger) bt R Tucker Leon (Cuba); L Plumenail (Fr) bt S Golubytsky (Ukr); F Boidin (Fr) bt P Omnes (Fr)

SEMI-FINALS: Plumenail bt Wienand 15-9; Puccini bt Boidin 15-13.

BRONZE MEDAL BOUT: F Boidin (Fr) bt Wienand 15-11.

FINAL: A Puccini (It) bt L Plumenail (Fr) 15-12.

Women's individual foil

FIRST ROUND: I Georgieva (Bul) bt F McIntosh (GB) 15-4.

QUARTER-FINALS: G Trillini (It) bt A Xiao (China) 15-7; L Badea (Rom) bt A Mohamed (Hun) 15-8; L Modaine-Cessac (Fr) bt M Weber-Koszto (Ger) 15-14, V Vezzali (It) bt A Marsh (US) 15-10.

SEMI-FINALS: Vezzali bt Modaine-Cessac 15-7; Badea bt Trillini 15-14.

BRONZE MEDAL BOUT: G Trillini (It) bt Modaine-Cessac 15-9

FINAL: L Badea (Rom) bt V Vezzali (It) 15-10.

Football

Men's preliminary round

POOL A: United States 2 Tunisia 0; Argentina 1 Portugal 1.

POOL B: France 1 Spain 1; Australia 2 Saudi Arabia 1.

Gymnastics

Men's team event

FINAL POSITIONS: 1, Russia 576 778pts. 2, China 575.539; 3, Ukraine 571.541, 4, Belorussia 571.381, 5, United States 570.618; 6, Bulgaria 567.567; 7, Germany 567.405; 8, South Korea 567.064; 9, Romania 566.257; 10, Japan 565.019; 11, France 565 781; 12 Italy 564 142

Hockey

Men's preliminary round

POOL A: Spain 3 Pakistan 0; India 1 Germany 1, Argentina 5 United States 2.

Women's round-robin

Australia 7 Argentina 1; United States 3 South Korea 2.

Judo

Men's under 86kg

POOL A: First round: Ao Tegen (China) bt M Pisula (Pol) Second round: O Maltsev (Rus) bt Ao Tegen; A Bagdasarov (Uzb) bt S Celestin (Haiti), B Olson (US) bt Wu Kuo-Hui (Taiwan); A Merkevicius (Lith) bt P Lacina (Cz); A Croitoru (Rom) bt H Yoshida (Japan); R Mashurenko (Ukr) bt S Murray (Netherlands Antilles), D Wilkinson (Aus) bt S Kirschin (Austria); D Yandzi (Fr) bt R Birch (GB). Third round: Bagdasarov bt Maltsev; Merkevicius bt Olson; Croitoru bt Mashurenko; Yandzi bt Wilkinson.

POOL B: First round: N Gill (Can) bt R Cano (Guat) Second round: M Spittka (Ger) bt S Alimzhanov (Kaz); E Branco (Br) bt G Tenadashvili (Georgia); Gill bt A Ndenguele (Congo); L Villar (Sp) bt K Bayu (Indo); P Eisri (Arg) bt A Kaaba (Mor); Y Despaigne (Cuba) bt S Hachicha (Tun); Jean Ki-young (S Kor) bt M Huizinga (Hol); S Abolo Biwole (Cam) bt J Raphael (Maur). Third round: Spittka bt Branco; Gill bt Villar; Despaigne bt Eisri; Jeon Ki-young bt Biwole.

QUARTER-FINALS: Bagdasarov bt Merkevicius; Croitoru bt Yandzi; Jeon Ki-young bt Despaigne; Spittka bt Gill.

SEMI-FINALS: Jeon Ki-young bt Spittka; Bagdasarov beat Croitoru.

BRONZE MEDAL BOUTS: M Spittka (Ger) bt Yoshida; M Huizinga (Hol) bt Croitoru.

FINAL: Jeon Ki-Young (S Kor) bt A Bagdasarov (Uzb)

Women's under 66kg

POOL A: First round: Cho Min-sun (S Kor) bt R Campos (Br); R Kazumi (Japan) bt R Stusakova (Cz). Second round: Wu Mei-Ling (Taiwan) bt Kazumi; C Zwiers (Hol) bt L Ogasawara (US); D Pina (Dom R) bt P Cherry (Maur); Cho Min-sun bt Wang Xianbo (China). Third round: Zwiers bt Wu Mei-Ling; Cho Min-sun bt Pina. Repechages: Wang Xianbo bt Campos; Ogasawara bt Wu Mei-Ling.

POOL B: First round: A von Rekowski (Ger) bt E Pierantozzi (It); O Reve (Cuba) bt C Dixon (Aus). Second round: M Spacek (Austria) bt E Kotelnikova (Rus), A Dubois (Fr) bt Reve; A Szczepanska (Pol) bt M Nguema (Gabon); R Sweatman (GB) bt von Rekowski. Third round: Dubois bt Spacek; Szczepanska bt Sweatman. Repechages: Reve bt Spacek; Sweatman bt Nguema.

QUARTER-FINAL: Reve bt Sweatman.

SEMI-FINALS: Cho Min-sun bt Zwiers; Szczepanska bt Dubois.

BRONZE MEDAL BOUTS: Wang Xianbo (China) bt Dubois; C Zwiers (Hol) bt Reve

FINAL: Cho Min-sun (S Kor) bt A Szczepanska (Pol).

Rowing

Men's quadruple sculls

HEATS (winners to semi-finals, remainder to repechages): Heat one: 1, Australia (J Hooker, D Free, R Snook, B Hanson) 6:05.60; 2, Holland 6:06 98; 3, Belorussia 6:08.38; 4, France 6:12.88; 5, Poland 6:52.62 Heat two: 1, Italy (M Paradiso, A Corona, R Gattarossa, A Sartori) 6:05.75; 2, United States 6:06.85; 3, Russia 6:10 62; 4, Argentina 6:16.16; 5, Brazil 6:36.60. Heat three: 1, Germany (A Steiner, S Volkert, A Hajek, A Willms) 6:06.33; 2, Switzerland 6:08.37; 3, Sweden 6:10 39; 4, Ukraine 6:13.04.

Men's lightweight coxless fours

HEATS (winners to semi-finals, remainder to repechages): Heat one: 1, Denmark (N Henriksen, T Poulsen, E Ebbesen, V Feddersen) 6:20.13; 2, Ireland (D Holland, S Lynch, N Maxwell, A O'Connor) 6:23.82; 3, Australia 6:25 87; 4, Italy 6:26.80; 5, Great Britain (D Lemon, J McNiven, T Kay, B Helm) 6:35.95; 6, Argentina 6:43.58 Heat two: 1, Canada (J Loy, D Boyes, G Hassett, B Peaker) 6:18.55; 2, United States 6:21.85, 3, Russia 6:26.39, 4, Spain 6:28.05; 5, Japan 6:30.16, 6, Portugal 7:37.13. Heat three: 1, South Africa (G Costa, M Rowand, R Tobler, M Hassalbach) 6:19.98; 2, Germany 6:22.97; 3, Austria 6:24.59, 4, Switzerland 6:26.50; 5, France 6:26.84

Women's quadruple sculls

HEATS (winners to semi-finals, remainder to repechages): Heat one: 1, Canada (L Biesenthal, M McBean, D O'Grady, K Heddle) 6:39.32; 2, Holland 6:43.76; 3, China 6:46.00; 4, Australia 6 48.58; 5, Romania 6:50.93 Heat two: 1, Germany (J Sorgers, K Rutschow, K Boron, K Koeppen) 6:36.00; 2, Russia 6:37.59; 3, Denmark 6:38.25; 4, Ukraine 6:46.17; 5, United States 6:54.73.

Softball

Round-robin

Australia 4 Taiwan 0; Japan 3 China 0; Canada 4 Puerto Rico 0, United States 9 Holland 0.

Swimming

Men's 100m freestyle

FINAL: 1, A Popov (Rus) 48.74sec; 2, G Hall (US) 48.81; 3, G Borges (Br) 49.02; 4, P van den Hoogenband (Hol) 49.13; 5, F Scherer (Br) 49.57; 6, P Khnykin (Ukr) 49.65, 7, R Busquets (P Rico) 49.68; 8, F Sanchez (Ven) 49 84

Men's 200m butterfly

FINAL: 1, D Pankratov (Rus) 1min 56.51sec; 2, T Malchow (US) 1:57.44; 3, S Goodman (Aus) 1:57:48; 4, F Esposito (Fr) 1:58.10; 5, S Miller (Aus) 1:58.28; 6, D Sylantyev (Ukr) 1:58 37; 7, J Hickman (GB) 1:58.47; 8, P Horvath (Hun) 1:59.12.

Women's 400m freestyle

FINAL: 1, M Smith (Ire) 4min 07.25sec; 2, D Hase (Ger) 4:08 30; 3, K Vlieghuis (Hol) 4:08.70; 4, K Kielgass (Ger) 4:09.83; 5, C Poll (C Rica) 4:10.00; 6, C Geurts (Hol) 4:10.08; 7, E Yamanoi (Japan) 4:11.68; 8, C Teuscher (US) 4:14.21.

Women's 100m backstroke

FINAL: 1, B Botsford (US) 1min 01 19sec; 2, W Hedgepeth (US) 1:01.47; 3, M Kriel (SA) 1:02 12; 4, M Nakamura (Japan) 1:02.33; 5, Yan Chen (China) 1:02.50; 6, A Buschschulte (Ger) 1:02.52; 7, N Stevenson (Aus) 1:02.70; 8, M Nakao (Japan) 1:02.78.

Women's 4 x 100m freestyle relay

FINAL: 1, United States (A Martino, A van Dyken, C Fox, J Thompson) 3min 39.29sec; 2, China (Le Jingyi, Chao Na, Nian Yun, Shan Ying) 3:40.48; 3, Germany (S Volker, S Osygus, A Buschschulte, F van Almsick) 3:41.48; 4, Holland 3:42.40; 5, Sweden 3:44.91; 6, Australia 3:45.31; 7, Canada 3:46.27; Russia disqualified.

Volleyball

Women's preliminary round

POOL A: China bt South Korea 17-16, 18-14, 2-15, 13-15, 15-13; Japan bt Ukraine 15-9, 15-5, 15-4; United States bt Holland 12-15, 15-10, 17-15, 15-7.

POOL B: Russia bt Canada 15-1, 15-7, 15-9; Germany bt Peru 15-11, 15-6, 15-3; Brazil bt Cuba 15-11, 15-10, 15-4.

Water polo

Preliminary round

POOL A: Russia 10 Germany 8; Yugoslavia 9 Spain 7; Hungary 10 Holland 8.

POOL B: Greece 8 Romania 5; Italy 10 Croatia 8; United States 9 Ukraine 7.

Weightlifting

Under 64kg

1, N Suleymanoglu (Tur; snatch 147.5kg, clean and jerk 187.5) 335.0 (world record); 2, V Leonides (Gr; 145, 187.5 — world record) 332.5; 3, Xiao Jiangang (China) 322.5; 4, Y Tzelilis 145.0, 177.5) 322.5; 5, A Popa 135.0, 172.5) 307.5; 6, I Iliev (Bul; 142.5, 162.5) 305 0; 7, M Yagci (Tur; 135.0, 167.5) 302.5, 8, Z Kecskes (Hun; 135.0, 167.5) 302.5, 9, P Petrov (Bul: 140.0, 160.0) 300.0; 10, Y Miyaji (Japan; 140.0, 157.5) 297.5

Yachting

Men's Finn

FIRST RACE: 1, J M van der Ploeg (Sp); 2, Y Tokovoy (Ukr); 3, M Maier (Cz); 4, H Spitzauer (Austria); 5, M Valasek (Slovakia); 6, P Presti (It); 18, R Stenhouse (GB).

Soling

FIRST RACE: 1, United States; 2, Russia; 3, Ireland (G Connolly, D O'Grady, M King); 4, Spain; 5, Germany; 6, Italy; 7, Great Britain (A Beadsworth, B Parkin, A Stead).

Star

FIRST RACE: 1, Canada; 2, Brazil; 3, New Zealand; 4, United States; 5, Sweden; 6, Spain; 15 Great Britain (G Charles, G Skudas); 23, Ireland (D Burrows, M Mansfield).

Remaining races postponed

Venue choice has sailors in a state

Edward Gorman on the shortcomings of Savannah for Olympic competition

When you first see the so-called Olympic day-marina out in Wassaw Sound at the mouth of the Savannah and Wilmington rivers, it is hard not to think of a film set. The row of glistening white tents out in the swamp, with their long roof-top pennants streaming in the breeze, has been likened to the Moorish army camped on the beach in *El Cid*.

To others, the size and technical complexity of the marina, and its remote setting, suggest something out of *Apocalypse Now*. Stepping onto the huge barges, where hundreds of competitors, their coaches and technical staff were beavering away in a scene of controlled chaos in the middle of nowhere, was also reminiscent of those great final sets in James Bond films, when the evil genius is assembling his bomb.

A cinematic comparison comes to mind because the marina — indeed, the entire Olympic yachting venue — has an air of unreality about it. Driven by its obsession that yachting had to be located within the state of Georgia, the organising committee has attempted to achieve the impossible: a world-class sailing event at a place where no one sails, and which is as unsuitable for racing as can be.

The refusal to consider out-of-state alternatives such as Hilton Head, just a few miles to the northeast of Savannah in South Carolina, or the ideal venue at Biscayne Bay in Miami, has cost millions of dollars. This would be just about acceptable if the legacy was a fabulous yachting facility, where sailors could train and enjoy the sport for generations to come, as was the case with Barcelona. In Savannah, there will be no legacy.

Two weeks after the Games have finished, there will be no evidence on the waterfront or out in the swamp that anyone ever sailed here. The day-marina will be dismantled, as will the main venue site, and the boats will have gone. As one official put it: "There won't even be a ripple on the water."

No one knows what the final bill will be, but the day-marina alone cost between $6-7 million (around £4 million) to build, and James Pilcher, of the Savannah News-Press, reckons the overall expenditure will be close to $20 million.

The day-marina is the attempted solution to the problems. With narrow channels and little water anywhere near Savannah, organisers opted to build a floating harbour out in the delta, about 11 miles from the venue management centre, which itself is a 20-minute drive from the city.

> 'It is as unsuitable for racing as could be'

The marina is constructed mainly from old American Army bridging barges. It is designed in an E-shape and covers 150,000 square feet, with just enough room to cram a tent for each team, its boats and gear. It has its own chandlery, press centre and hospital. To supply it is a logistical challenge comparable to running a small army in battle.

Everyone who goes there has to spend half an hour on a launch, travelling down river from the management centre. The marina has to be supplied with 20,000 gallons of water every day, fuel for its generators, and everything else from ice to hamburgers. At night it is guarded by American Marines, and every morning they dive under it to check for limpet mines.

Even from the marina, the sailors have a long way to go to the racing areas on the Atlantic, with the Solings averaging about an hour and a quarter in light winds. It should never have happened. The International Yacht Racing Union, the sport's governing body, should have put its foot down from the outset and insisted on somewhere else, out of Georgia.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM ATLANTA

Basketball

Women's preliminary round

POOL A: Japan 76 China 72.

Beach volleyball

Women

PRELIMINARY ROUND: B Lesage and A Prawerman (Fr) bt M Yaratzeth Huerta Hernandez and V Eguiluz Soto (Mex) 15-11; Ni Putu Timy Yudhani Rahayu and Engel Berta Kaize (Indo) bt M Maloney and B Broen Ouellette (Can) 15-10; G Castro and D Richardson (US) bt L Van De Ven and D Schoon Kadijk (Hol) 15-4; A Spring and L Fenwick (Aus) bt S Fujita and Y Takahashi (Japan) 15-10; M Rodrigues and A S Ramos (Br) bt A M Solazzi and C Turetta (It) 17-15; N Cook and K Pottharst (Aus) bt A Glover and A Cooper (GB) 15-4; B Buhler and D Muesch (Ger) bt Y Ishizaka and T Nakano (Japan) 15-8; B Fontana Harris and L Hanley (US) bt M Berntsen and R Hestad (Nor) 15-8; S Pires Tavares and J Silva Cruz (Br) bt Ni Puto Timy Yudhani Rahayu and Engel Berta Kaize 15-2.

Fencing

Men's team epee

QUALIFYING ROUND: Spain bt Canada 45-41; Russia bt Romania 45-35, United States bt South Korea 45-41; Italy, Estonia, Germany, Hungary and France receive byes to quarter-finals.

QUARTER-FINALS: Germany bt Estonia 45-39; France bt Spain 45-38; Italy bt United States 45-44; Russia bt Hungary 45-39.

SEMI-FINALS: Russia bt France 45-42; Italy bt Germany 45-44.

Hockey

Men's preliminary round

POOL B: Great Britain 2 Holland 2.

Women's round-robin

Australia 1 Germany 0; Argentina 1 Spain 0.

Rowing

Men's single sculls

REPECHAGES (first two in each heat to semi-finals): Heat one: 1, I Cop (Slovenia) 7min 41.83sec; 2, P Haining (GB) 7:45.95; 3, D Cameron (Aus) 7:49.24; 4, T Soderblom (Fin) 7:52.52; 5, D Takeda (Japan) 7:59.77. Heat two: 1, R Waddell (NZ) 7:42.87; 2, A Ibrahim (Egypt) 7.45.84; 3, L Szogi (Hun) 7:53.04; 4, A Serna (Rus) 8:46.71. Heat three: 1, S Fernandez (Arg) 7:42.63; 2, C Beasley (US) 7:44.36; 3, G Calabrese (It) 7:45.53; 4, M Tse (HK) 8:31.41. Heat four: 1, F Beldan (Nor) 7:47.31; 2, H Nussbaumer (Austria) 7:49.79; 3, O Khirnich (Ukr) 7:58.15; 4, J Jaanson (Est) 8:15.25.

Men's double sculls

REPECHAGES (first two in each heat to semi-finals): Heat one: 1, Austria (A Jonke, C Zerbst) 6:43.52; 2, Belgium 6:48.45; 3, Poland 6:53.21. Heat two: 1, Germany (S Mayer, R Opler) 6:47.52; 2, Croatia 6:48.02; 3, Hungary 6:50.02; 4, South Korea 7:09 71. Heat three: 1, Latvia (U Lasmanis, A Reinholds) 6:51 19; 2, Slovakia 6:53.84; 3, Brazil 6:56.93; 4, Spain 6:59.57 Heat four: 1, Canada (M Forgeron, T Hallett) 6:51.93; 2, Australia 6:51.98; 3, Great Britain (G Pooley, R Thatcher) 7:00.81; 4, Slovenia 7:08.08.

Men's coxless pairs

REPECHAGES (first three in each heat to semi-finals): Heat one: 1, Italy (M Penna, W Bottega) 7:10.25; 2, Lithuania 7:10 47; 3, Argentina 7:10.57; 4, South Africa 7:11 14; 5, Belorussia 7:12 14. Heat two: 1, Croatia (M Banovic, N Saraga) 7:05.81; 2, Belgium 7:06 76; 3, Bulgaria 7:13.48; 4, Holland 7:24.17; 5, Japan 7:36.6. Heat three: 1, United States (M Peterson, J Holland) 7:02 13; 2, Austria 7:03.88; 3, New Zealand 7:04.40; 4, Romania 7:07.98; 5, Germany 7:11 67.

Men's coxless fours

REPECHAGE (first three to semi-finals): 1, Germany (S Forster, I Landvoigt, C Fischer, S Scholz) 6:29.10; 2, China 6:29.95; 3, United States 6:30.95; 4, New Zealand 6:35.58; 5, Argentina 6:37.85.

CORRECTION: From heats on Sunday, first three in each race qualified for semi-finals, not as stated.

Women's single sculls

REPECHAGES (first three in each heat to semi-finals): Heat one: 1, R Davidon (US) 8:33.73; 2, R Neykova (Bul) 8:41.37; 3, G Batten (GB) 8:44.73; 4, M Evers (Ger) 8:54.05; 5, S Hirsche (Alg) 9:28 41. Heat two: 1, E Lipa (Rom) 8:30 97; 2, A Bredael (Bel) 8:33.72; 3, Xiaochun Liu (China) 8:37.01; 4, B Saldokiene (Lith) 8:41.08. Heat three: 1, S Laumann (Can) 8:28.88; 2, C Garcia (Fr) 8:32.58; 3, L Finska-Bezerra (Fin) 8:35.72; 4, T Svaier (Gr) 8:49.44; 5, E Urbano (Arg) 9:04 66.

Women's double sculls

REPECHAGE (first three to semi-finals): 1, Norway (K Bjerknes, K Klaveness) 7.43.75; 2, Latvia 7:48.02; 3, Italy 7:52.07; 4, Argentina 8:09.24; 5, South Korea 8:44.34.

CORRECTION: From heats on Sunday, first three in each race qualified for semi-finals, not as stated.

Women's coxless pairs

REPECHAGE (first three to semi-finals): 1, Czech Republic (S Telenska, H Danusova) 8:01.50; 2, South Africa 8:11.90; 3, Great Britain (K Mackenzie, P Cross) 8:15.28; 4, Argentina 8:35.53.

CORRECTION: From heats on Sunday, first three in each race qualified for semi-finals, not as stated.

Shooting

Men's 50-metre free pistol

FINAL: 1, B Kokorev (Rus) 666.4pts, 2, I Basinski (Belo) 662.0; 3, R Di Donna (It) 661.8; 4, K Loukachik (Belo) 660.1; 5, V Fait (It) 659.8; 6, Yifu Wang (China) 659 3; 7, M Tenk (Cz) 657.7; 8, S Sanchez (Guat) 657.1.

Swimming

Men's 400m freestyle

HEATS (fastest eight qualify for final): Heat one: 1, A Kvassov (Kyr) 4min 00 68sec; 2, A Flores (Arg) 4:02.53; 3, O Dalal (Jor) 4.41.12. Heat two: 1, A Bermudez (Col) 3:57.45; 2, M Vucetic (Cro) 3:59.20; 3, R Monasterio (Ven) 4:00.44; 4, C Ergenekan (Tur) 4:02.39; 5, M Kwok (HK) 4:02.68, 6, A Zakharov (Mold) 4:09.30; 7, Ju Wei Sng (Sing) 4:12.24 Heat three: 1, D Kowalski (Aus) 3:51.67; 2, A Holmertz (Swe) 3:52.27; 3, S Wiese (Ger) 3:53.55; 4, D Manganas (Gr) 3:54.85; 5, A Akatyev (Rus) 3:56 40; 6, L Lima (Br) 3:56.43. 7, J Bucar (Slovenia) 3:57 38; 8, Cheol Woo (S Kor) 4:03.11. Heat 4: 1, E Brembilla (It) 3.49.35; 2, M Rosolino (It) 3:51.05; 3, J Hoffmann (Ger) 3:51.28; 4, J Piersma (US) 3:53.58. 5, Y De Fabrique (Fr) 3:55.42; 6, T Sethsothorn (Thai) 3:57.08; 7, B Szabados (Hun) 3:59.36; 8, H Masry (Syria) 4:10.23 Heat five: 1, D Loader (NZ) 3:51 54; 2, P Palmer (GB) 3:51.98; 3, J Carstensen (Den) 3.52.82, 4, T Dolan (US) 3:53.91; 5, M Allen (Aus) 3:54.34; 6, I Snitko (Ukr) 3:55.67; 7, R Neethling (SA) 3:56 19; 8, H Yasui (Japan) 4:00.19.

Men's 100m backstroke

HEATS (fastest eight qualify for final): Heat one: 1, A Lim (Malay) 57 98sec; 2, K Priahin (Kyr) 60.26; 3, L Jorge (Moz) 63.86, 4, S Shahi (Nepal) 74.58. Heat two: 1, N Neckles (Barb) 57 91; 2, D Phuangthong (Thai) 58.32; 3, Kim Min-suk (S Kor) 58.43; 4, S Ushkalov (Kaz) 58 61; 5, N Rajcevich (Chile) 59.90; 6, G Koh (Singapore) 60.29; 7, M Wing (Sur) 61.24. 8, F Alotaibi (Kuw) 64.27. Heat three: 1, E Urbach (Isr) 56.74, 2, R Papa (Phil) 57.67; 3, M Machovic (Slovakia) 57.78; 4, T Karlo (Cro) 57.89; 5, R Blaub (Cz) 58.29; 6, L Kristjansson (Ice) 58.53; 7, A O'Connor (Ire) 58.56, 8, A Elzarov (Mold) 59.24. Heat four: 1, D Grigaitis (Lith) 58.20; equal 2, V Nikolaychuk (Ukr) and D Buyukuncu (Tur) 58.71; 4, R Romero (Br) 58.94; 5, Yi Zhao (China) 57.17, 6, C Arena (Mex) 57.40; 7, N Laurentino (Por) 57 59; 8, P Adamidis (Gr) 58.12 Heat five: 1, N Bent (Cuba) 54.83; 2, M Lopez-Zubero (Sp) 55.36; 3, F Schott (Fr) 55.77; 4, V Selkov (Rus) 55.87; 5, N Willey (GB) 56.27; 6, N Butacu (Rom) 56 73, 7, J Winter (NZ) 56.92; 8, T Deutsch (Hun) 56.86. Heat six: 1, R Cabrera (Cuba) 55.29; 2, T Schwenk (US) 55 71; 3, R Brakns (Can) 56.14; 4, H Itoi (Japan) 56.22; 5, S Theloke (Ger) 56.26; 6, S Dewick (Aus) 56.35; 7, C Renaud (Can) 56.32. Heat seven: 1, J Rouse (US) 54.20; 2, R Braun (Ger) 55.73; 3, E Merisi (It) 55.82; 4, M Siembida (Pol) 58.16; 5, K Konnai (Japan) 58.35; 6, M Harris (GB) 57.17; 7, M Spokas (Lith) 57.20.

Men's 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay

HEATS (fastest eight qualify for final): Heat one: 1, Germany 3min 19 27sec; 2, Sweden 3:20 74; 3, Great Britain (N Shackell, A Ripley, M Stevens, M Fibbens) 3:21 34 (British record); 4, Croatia 3:26.02; 5, Puerto Rico 3:28.27 Heat two: 1, Holland 3:20.16; 2, Brazil 3:20.21; 3, Australia 3:20.88; 4, Romania 3:21.66, 5, Finland 3:22 89; 6, Ecuador 3:27.77. Heat three: 1, United States 3:18.40; 2, Russia 3:20.39; 3, New Zealand 3:21.65; 4, France 3:21.79; 5, Venezuela 3:23.04; 6, Uzbekistan 3:28.33; 7, Kyrghizstan 3 30 62.

Women's 200m breaststroke

HEATS (fastest eight qualify for final): Heat one: 1, E Graf (Uru) 2min 42.97sec; 2, A Cherevko (Kyr) 2:57.65 Heat two: 1, K Bremond (Fr) 2:36.26; 2, I Cristina Caballos (Col) 2:38.94; 3, M Kalnikova (Lat) 2:39.63; 4, M Ying-Hsin (Taiwan) 2:43.94; 5, N Vanda Cruz (Ang) 2:44.24; 6, N Kodajova (Slovakia) 2:45.21; 7, C Gibbes (Trin) 2:45 87. Heat three: 1, A Kepzar (Slovenia) 2:33.34; 2, L Becerra (Sp) 2:33.30; 3, E Fischer (Austria) 2:33 88; 4, M Hagman (Fin) 2:38.11; 5, Joo-Hee Roh (S Kor) 2:36.20; 6, K Dumitru (Ger) 2:37.07; 7, M Santa Cruz (Arg) 2:37.85. Heat four: 1, P Heyns (SA) 2:26.63; 2, K Iwasaki (Japan) 2:30.84; 3, L Eriksson (Swe) 2:31.65; 4, S Bondarenko (Ukr) 2:32 42; 5, J Russell (SA) 2:32.44; 6, E Austevoll (Nor) 2:32.48; 7, R Mantis (Can) 2:32.97; 8, Yuan Yuan (China) 2:33.89. Heat five: 1, A Beard (US) 2:28 10; 2, A Kovacs (Hun) 2:29.58; 3, N Neumann (Aus) 2:29.91; 4, Li Lin (China) 2:30.64; 5, J Sroky (US) 2:31.57; 6, L Manhalova (Cz) 2:32.14; 7, Y Makarova (Rus) 2:33.74; 8, M Della Valle (It) 2:34.76. Heat six: 1, S Riley (Aus) 2:28.30; 2, M Tanaka (Japan) 2:29.36; 3, B Becue (Bel) 2:29.82; 4, C Pelelski (Can) 2:30.30; 5, A Peczak (Pol) 2:30.84; 6, M Hardiman (GB) 2:31.12; 7, M Ostling (Swe) 2:33.44; 8, L Lacusta (Rom) 2:38.08.

Women's 100m butterfly

HEATS (fastest eight qualify for final): Heat one: 1, M Pareyra (Arg) 1min 03 98sec; 2, D Zelviene (Lith) 1:04.83, 3, Park Woo-hee (S Kor) 1:05 38. Heat two: 1, A Francisco (Por) 1:02.98; 2, M Kubaickova (Cz) 1:03.82; 3, N Baranovskaya (Belo) 1:04.09; 4, N Zuhal (Tur) 1:04.11; 5, N Meskovska (Macedonia) 1:04.25; 6, Hsieh Shu-Ting (Taiwan) 1 04.39, 7, M Karystinou (Gr) 1.05.05; 8, G Ujcic (Cro) 1:06.85. Heat three: 1, N Zolotukhina (Ukr) 1:02.18; 2, A Uryniuk (Pol) 1:02 39; 3, M Parssinen (Fin) 1:02 53; 4, P Minprapha (Thai) 1:03.35; 5, E Konradsdottir (Ice) 1:03.41; 6, A Loots (SA) 1:03.53, 7, E Klocker (Hun) 1:03.81, 8, M Madine (Ire) 1:03 80. Heat four: 1, H Kashima (Japan) 1:00.85; 2, Huijue Cai (China) 1:00 89; 3, M Jacobsen (Den) 1:00.91; 4, G Rose (Br) 1:01.22; 5, J Voitowitsch (Ger) 1:01.47; 6, C Jeanson (Fr) 1:01.58; 7, L Ziau (Rom) 1:02.68; 8, J Yeo (Singapore) 1:02.71 Heat five: 1, A Martino (US) 59.31sec; 2, S O'Neil (Aus) 1min 00.55sec; 3, J Sjoberg (Swe) 1:01.01; 4, S Skou (Den) 1:01.25, 5, Y Nazarnova (Rus) 1:01.54; 6, I Tocchini (It) 1:01.83, 7, A Kennedy (Aus) 1:01.89; 8, C Foot (GB) 1:03 04. Heat six: 1, A van Dyken (US) 1:00 04; 2, Limin Liu (China) 1:00 18; 3, A Aoyama (Japan) 1:00.20; 4, S Pozdeyeva (Rus) 1:01.29; 5, S Evenetz (Can) 1 01.32. 6, M Pelaez (Sp) 1 01.99; 7, J Amey (Can) 1:02.81.

Table tennis

Women's doubles

PRELIMINARY ROUND: Pool A: E Coubat and Xiao Wang-Drechou Ming (Fr) bt B Chiu and Lijuan Geng (Can) 21-17, 21-12. Pool B: Wei Lu and Yunping Qiao (China) bt B Rodriguez Olate and S Tepes Cancino (Chile) 21-3, 21-2; O Nemes and J Schopp (Ger) bt A Holt and L Lomas (GB) 21-19, 21-19. Pool C: Po Wa Chai and Tan Lui Chan (HK) bt E Gonzalez and M Gomti (Peru) 21-5, 21-8; P Pettersson and A Svensson (Swe) bt Hyon Kim and Jong-ai Tu (N Kor) 21-18, 21-18. Pool D: Hae-jung Park and Ji-hee Ryu (S Kor) bt N Kyakobye and M Musoka (Uga) 21-6, 21-14; Bai Hui-Yin and Xu Jing (Taiwan) bt E Ciosu Elena and G Cojocaru (Rom) 21-17, 17-21, 21-18. Pool E: Hyang Kim and Mi Son (N Kor) bt Chen Chiu-Tan and Chen Jing (Taiwan) 11-21, 22-20, 21-17; C Batorfi and K Toth (Hun) bt Shirley Zhou and Stella Zhou (Aus) 21-8, 21-17 Pool F: Wei Wang and L Yip (US) bt E Noor and H Vriesekoop (Hol) 21-18, 11-21, 21-11; I Palina and Y Timina (Rus) bt B Kaffo and O Oshonaike (Nigeria) 21-10, 21-11 Pool G: C Koyama and T Todo (Japan) bt G Keen and M Hooman-Kloppenburg (Hol) 21-10, 21-12; E Schall and N Struse (Ger) bt A Arisi and L Negrisoli (It) 21-12, 21-15. Pool H: F Katzu and R Sato (Japan) bt E Aganovic and T Boros (Cro) 21-16, 21-14; Moo-kyo Kim and Kyoung-ae Park (S Kor) bt M Doti and L Kosaka (Br) 21-11, 21-10

Tennis

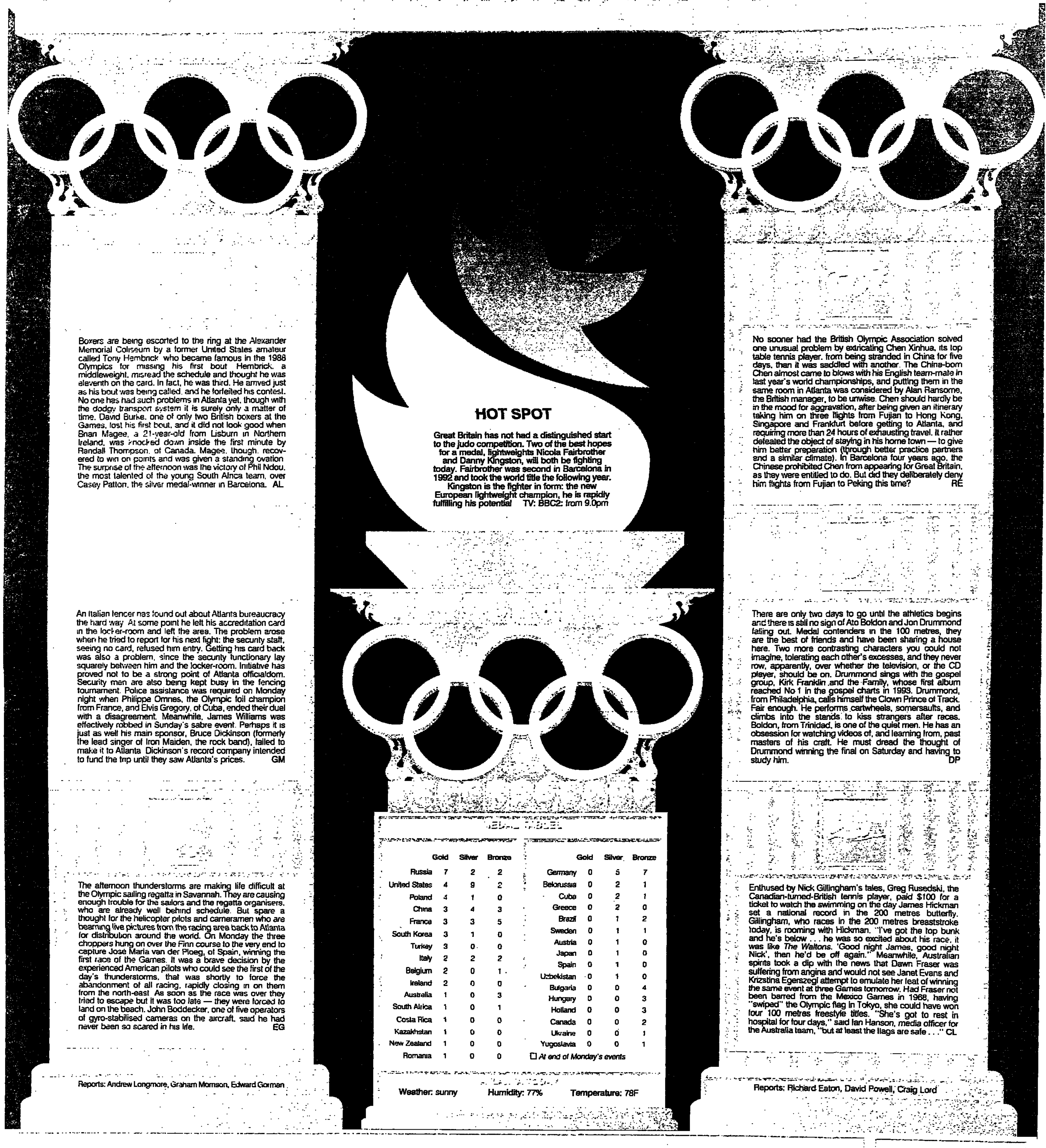
Men's singles

FIRST ROUND: T Henman (GB) bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 7-6, 6-3; M Rosset (Switz) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 6-3; A Gaudenzi (It) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-2; S Sargsian (Arm) bt D Nestor (Can) 6-4, 6-4; F Fetterlein (Den) bt J Eltingh (Hol) 6-4, 4-6, 8-6; B Black (Zim) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Women's singles

FIRST ROUND: A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt D van Roost (Bel) 6-1, 7-5; M Seles (US) bt Li Chen (China) 6-0, 6-4.

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE



Boxers are being escorted to the ring at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum by a former United States amateur called Tony Hembrick who became famous in the 1988 Olympics for missing his first bout Hembrick, a middleweight, misread the schedule and thought he was eleventh on the card. In fact, he was third. He arrived just as his bout was being called, and he forfeited his contest. No one has had such problems in Atlanta yet, though with the dodgy transport system it is surely only a matter of time. David Burke, one of only two British boxers at the Games, lost his first bout, and it did not look good when Brian Magee, a 21-year-old from Lisburn in Northern Ireland, was knocked down inside the first minute by Randall Thompson, of Canada. Magee, though, recovered to win on points and was given a standing ovation The surprise of the afternoon was the victory of Phil Ndou, the most talented of the young South Africa team, over Casey Patton, the silver medal-winner in Barcelona. AL

An Italian fencer has found out about Atlanta bureaucracy the hard way At some point he left his accreditation card in the locker-room and left the area. The problem arose when he tried to report for his next fight: the security staff, seeing no card, refused him entry. Getting his card back was also a problem, since the security functionary lay squarely between him and the locker-room. Initiative has proved not to be a strong point of Atlanta officialdom. Security men are also being kept busy in the fencing tournament. Police assistance was required on Monday night when Philippe Omnes, the Olympic foil champion from France, and Elvis Gregory, of Cuba, ended their duel with a disagreement. Meanwhile, James Williams was effectively robbed in Sunday's sabre event. Perhaps it is just as well his main sponsor, Bruce Dickinson (formerly the lead singer of Iron Maiden, the rock band), failed to make it to Atlanta Dickinson's record company intended to fund the trip until they saw Atlanta's prices. GM

The afternoon thunderstorms are making life difficult at the Olympic sailing regatta in Savannah. They are causing enough trouble for the sailors and the regatta organisers, who are already well behind schedule. But spare a thought for the helicopter pilots and cameramen who are beaming live pictures from the racing area back to Atlanta for distribution around the world. On Monday the three choppers hung on over the Finn course to the very end to capture José Maria van der Ploeg, of Spain, winning the first race of the Games. It was a brave decision by the experienced American pilots who could see the first of the day's thunderstorms, that was shortly to force the abandonment of all racing, rapidly closing in on them from the north-east As soon as the race was over they tried to escape but it was too late — they were forced to land on the beach. John Boddecker, one of five operators of gyro-stabilised cameras on the aircraft, said he had never been so scared in his life. EG

Reports: Andrew Longmore, Graham Morrison, Edward Gorman

HOT SPOT

Great Britain has not had a distinguished start to the judo competition. Two of the best hopes for a medal, lightweights Nicola Fairbrother and Danny Kingston, will both be fighting today. Fairbrother was second in Barcelona in 1992 and took the world title the following year. Kingston is the fighter in form: the new European lightweight champion, he is rapidly fulfilling his potential TV: BBC2: from 9.0pm

MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
Russia	7	2	2	Germany	0	5	7
United States	4	9	2	Belorussia	0	2	1
Poland	4	1	0	Cuba	0	2	1
China	3	4	3	Greece	0	2	0
France	3	3	5	Brazil	0	1	2
South Korea	3	1	0	Sweden	0	1	1
Turkey	3	0	0	Austria	0	1	0
Italy	2	2	2	Japan	0	1	0
Belgium	2	0	1	Spain	0	1	0
Ireland	2	0	0	Uzbekistan	0	1	0
Australia	1	0	3	Bulgaria	0	0	4
South Africa	1	0	1	Hungary	0	0	3
Costa Rica	1	0	0	Holland	0	0	3
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	Canada	0	0	2
New Zealand	1	0	0	Ukraine	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	Yugoslavia	0	0	1

☐ *At end of Monday's events*

ATLANTA TODAY

Weather: sunny **Humidity:** 77% **Temperature:** 78F

No sooner had the British Olympic Association solved one unusual problem by extricating Chen Xinhua, its top table tennis player, from being stranded in China for five days, than it was saddled with another. The China-born Chen almost came to blows with his English team-mate in last year's world championships, and putting them in the same room in Atlanta was considered by Alan Ransome, the British manager, to be unwise. Chen should hardly be in the mood for aggravation, after being given an itinerary taking him on three flights from Fujian to Hong Kong, Singapore and Frankfurt before getting to Atlanta, and requiring more than 24 hours of exhausting travel. It rather defeated the object of staying in his home town — to give him better preparation (through better practice partners and a similar climate). In Barcelona four years ago, the Chinese prohibited Chen from appearing for Great Britain, as they were entitled to do. But did they deliberately deny him flights from Fujian to Peking this time? RE

There are only two days to go until the athletics begins and there is still no sign of Ato Boldon and Jon Drummond falling out. Medal contenders in the 100 metres, they are the best of friends and have been sharing a house here. Two more contrasting characters you could not imagine, tolerating each other's excesses, and they never row, apparently, over whether the television, or the CD player, should be on. Drummond sings with the gospel group, Kirk Franklin and the Family, whose first album reached No 1 in the gospel charts in 1993. Drummond, from Philadelphia, calls himself the Clown Prince of Track. Fair enough. He performs cartwheels, somersaults, and climbs into the stands to kiss strangers after races. Boldon, from Trinidad, is one of the quiet men. He has an obsession for watching videos of, and learning from, past masters of his craft. He must dread the thought of Drummond winning the final on Saturday and having to study him. DP

Enthused by Nick Gillingham's tales, Greg Rusedski, the Canadian-turned-British tennis player, paid $100 for a ticket to watch the swimming on the day James Hickman set a national record in the 200 metres butterfly. Gillingham, who races in the 200 metres breaststroke today, is rooming with Hickman. "I've got the top bunk and he's below . . . he was so excited about his race, it was like *The Waltons*. 'Good night James, good night Nick', then he'd be off again." Meanwhile, Australian spirits took a dip with the news that Dawn Fraser was suffering from angina and would not see Janet Evans and Krizstina Egerszegi attempt to emulate her feat of winning the same event at three Games tomorrow. Had Fraser not been barred from the Mexico Games in 1968, having "swiped" the Olympic flag in Tokyo, she could have won four 100 metres freestyle titles. "She's got to rest in hospital for four days," said Ian Hanson, media officer for the Australia team, "but at least the flags are safe . . ." CL

Reports; Richard Eaton, David Powell, Craig Lord

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

BADMINTON: Men's and women's singles, first round (14.00, 19 00 and 01 00).

BASEBALL: Round-robin: Italy v United States (20.00); South Korea v Cuba (01.00)

BASKETBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: China v Argentina (15 00); Croatia v Angola (22.00); Lithuania v United States (03 00). Pool B: Yugoslavia v South Korea (17 00); Australia v Brazil (20 00); Greece v Puerto Rico (01 00).

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Men's and women's round-robin (14 00 and 19.00)

BOXING: First round (light-welterweight and light-heavyweight, 18 30 and 01.00)

CYCLING: Men: Individual pursuit, qualification (15 00) and quarter-finals (18.00); 1km time-trial, final (16.45); sprint, qualification (21.30), first round (22 30) and repechages (23 30). Women: Sprint, qualification (16.15).

EQUESTRIANISM: Three-day event: Team jumping (final discipline, 14.00): individual dressage (second day, 20.00).

FENCING: Men's team sabre, preliminaries (16 00) and final stages (22 00): women's team épée, preliminaries (13 00) and final stages (20.00)

FOOTBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: United States v Portugal, Argentina v Tunisia (00 30) Pool B: France v Saudi Arabia, Spain v Australia (00.00)

GYMNASTICS: Men's individual all-round final (21 15)

HANDBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Russia v Kuwait (15.00); Croatia v Switzerland (19.30), Sweden v United States (00 00) Pool B: France v Spain (17.00); Egypt v Algeria (21.30); Germany v Brazil (02.00).

HOCKEY: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: United States v India (14.00); Spain v Argentina (22 30), Germany v Pakistan (01.00).

JUDO: Men's under 71kg and women's under 56kg, preliminaries (14.30) and finals (20 00).

ROWING: Men: Repechages: Lightweight double sculls (14.00); lightweight coxless fours (15.00); quadruple sculls (15.50); eights (16.10). Women: Repechages: Lightweight double sculls (14 30); quadruple sculls (15 30); eights (16.00)

SHOOTING: Men: Double trap, preliminaries (14.00) and final (19.30); 25-metre rapid fire pistol, preliminaries (15.00). Women: 50-metre standard rifle, three-position, preliminaries (13 30) and final (17.00)

SOFTBALL: Round-robin: United States v Taiwan (14.00); Puerto Rico v China (16 30); Australia v Holland (23 30), Japan v Canada (02.00).

SWIMMING: Heats at 15.05 for evening finals plus women's 800m freestyle. Finals: Men: 200m breaststroke (00.33); 100m butterfly (01.19). Women: 200m individual medley (00.55); 4 x 100m medley relay (01.39).

TABLE TENNIS: Men's singles, round-robin (15 00); men's and women's doubles, round-robin (00.00).

TENNIS: Men's and women's singles, first round (15.00).

VOLLEYBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Japan v Holland (15.00); United States v China (00.30); South Korea v Ukraine (03.00). Pool B: Canada v Germany (17.30); Brazil v Russia (21.00); Peru v Cuba (23.30).

WATER POLO: Preliminary round: Pool A: Hungary v Yugoslavia (16.00); Spain v Russia (17.40); Holland v Germany (21.40). Pool B: Greece v Ukraine (20.00); Italy v Romania (23.20); Croatia v United States (03.00).

WEIGHTLIFTING: Under 76kg: Group B (17.30) and Group A (final; 21 00).

YACHTING: Two races to be sailed in each class, men's and women's Mistral, men's and women's 470, men's Finn, women's Europe, Laser, Star (18.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7 0am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-9.0pm The Essential Olympics, 10.20pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand

BBC2

9 0-10 20pm Olympic Grandstand

Eurosport

24-hour coverage.

Panasonic

Official Worldwide Sponsor
1996 Olympic Games

Atlanta 1996

OLYMPIC GAMES

Stark comes to grief as Australia break clear

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN ATLANTA

AUSTRALIA, the defending champions, swept into a 61-point lead in the Olympic three-day event contest after an incident-filled speed and endurance phase in the Georgia International Horse Park yesterday. On a day when it was not the heat (88F) which dictated the outcome but the rider's ability to "read" the punishing, undulating course, the United States, the overnight leaders, were relegated to second place. New Zealand, the favourites, are lying third.

Great Britain's day began disastrously, when Ian Stark and Stanwick Ghost fell at the first water complex. With William Fox-Pitt and Cosmopolitan also incurring 20 jumping penalties, it was only the heroic clear rounds of Gary Parsonage, on Magic Rogue — competing in the team for the first time — and Karen Dixon, on Too Smart, which kept Britain, second overnight, in the medal hunt in sixth place.

From the moment that New Zealand's former world champion, Blyth Tait, on Chesterfield, set out at 8.20am, the severity of the course was never in doubt. Tait, one of the most experienced competitors in the field, had to ride every inch of the way to bring Chesterfield home clear.

Although the course was shorter than for a usual four-star event — in deference to the expected conditions — it was the difficult terrain and the angle at which many of the fences were sited which caused many of the problems. Only one horse, Upont, ridden by Jacques Dulcy, of France, finished inside the optimum time.

Fox-Pitt, who said his horse, Cosmopolitan, finished no more tired than at an English event, was one of several riders to sustain a fall on the flat after watering had made patches of the course "like black ice". The fall, in front of fence 17, the Olympic Rings, was not penalised as it did not occur at the actual fence. He attributed his refusal at fence eight — an uncomfortable bounce of two mud huts where Vicky Latta, of New Zealand, on Broadcast News, came to grief — to Cosmopolitan's belief that he was expected to jump them both in one.

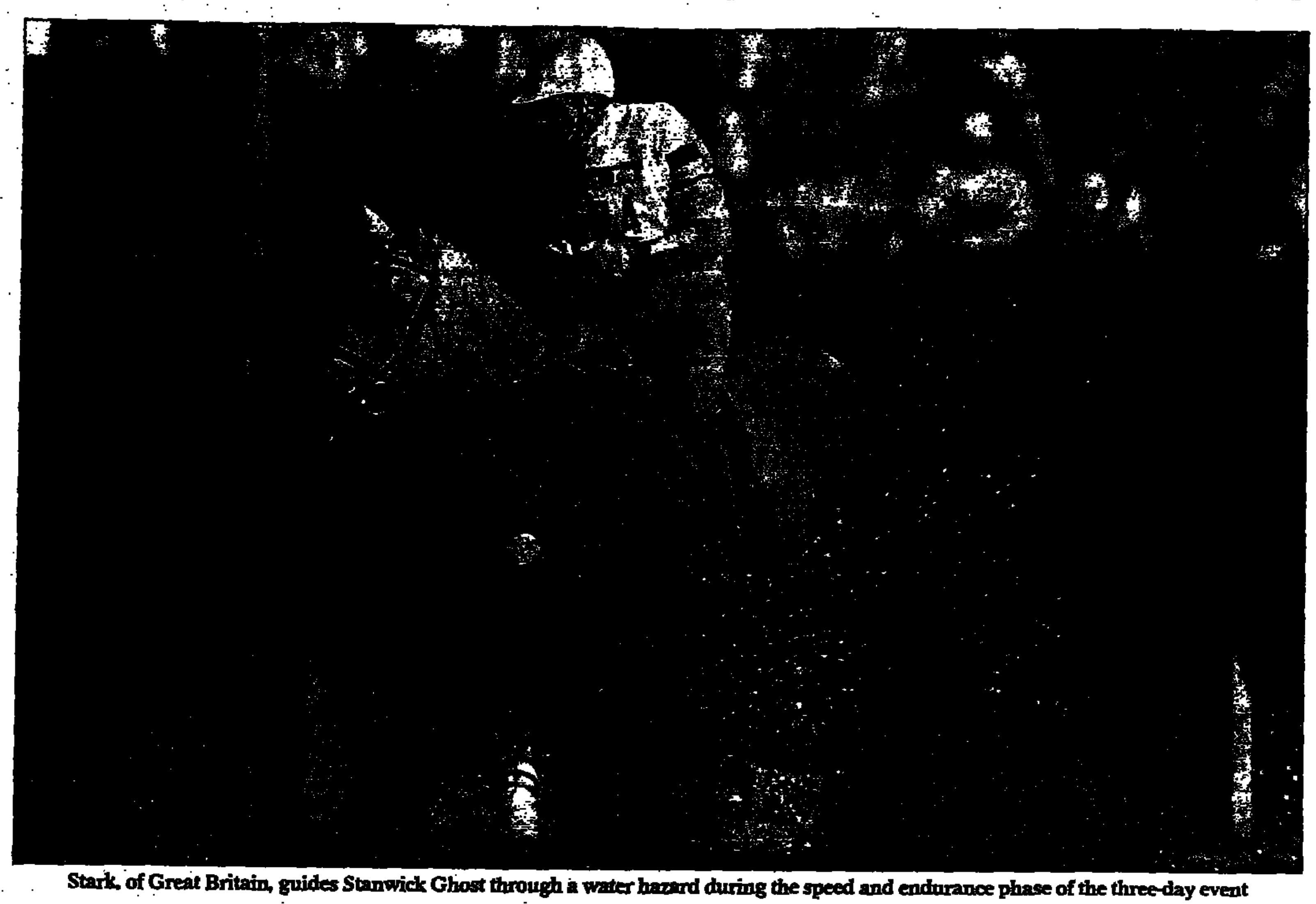
Stark's ten-year-old Stanwick Ghost set out "jumping like a star" but he had his eye at fence 11 firmly set at the brush fence out of the water, rather than the small step up in front. Despite the spectacular fall, Stark quickly remounted Stanwick Ghost, who finished the course full of running.

Despite these early disasters the phlegmatic Parsonage said that he felt under no pressure as he entered the start box for the cross-country. "I just wanted to get round clear — that's what I was brought here to do," he said.

True to his word, he produced a workmanlike, round with no faults to lift morale within the British camp. Dixon, despite some hairy moments on the impetuous Too Smart, used all of her considerable experience to continue the team's rehabilitation.

Australia forged ahead after outstanding rounds from their first two riders — Wendy Schaeffer, on the extravagant jumper Sunburst, and Phillip Dutton, on True Blue Girdwood.

Schaeffer's attacking round — just nine weeks after breaking her leg in a schooling accident — summed up the sheer grit and determination of the Australians who, with their fourth rider, Andrew Hoy on Darien Powers, also going clear, can now afford to have 12 fences down in today's showjumping and still retain the gold medal.



Stark, of Great Britain, guides Stanwick Ghost through a water hazard during the speed and endurance phase of the three-day event

Protesters picking on the wrong target

SIMON BARNES

Atlanta sketch

DO ANIMALS have rights? This question is brought into pin-sharp focus whenever horses jump. The three-day event here has excited all kinds of concern from those who hold out for animal rights, and you can see what they mean.

The cross-country stage of a three-day event is perhaps the most dramatic thing humans and animals ever do together. The joint courage of horse and rider is quite astounding. Nothing in sport can touch it.

The Grand National? That is a different matter. It is the madness of herd instinct that is at the heart of steeplechasing. In eventing, we are dealing in an altogether different currency: trust. It is the only form of payment that is acceptable. Without mutual trust in each other's skill, courage and athleticism, there is simply no way round a cross-country course.

That is what lends a special poignancy, a special drama, to the inevitable falls. A fall at cross country is almost like a divorce, a failure of trust, and often the question of who is to blame is unanswerable.

The question of cruelty is always brought up for the Olympic three-day event. It has been gone in to remorselessly and at length here, and quite rightly, too. It really is much too hot for galloping a horse. Yet the vets seem to be the only people at these chaotic Games who have thought ahead. The enforced breaks and cooling stations, with the banks of fans blasting atomised water over grateful horses, have worked.

"They are finishing with temperatures no higher than in the UK," the British rider, Wiliam Fox-Pitt, said. "My horse is really fresh coming off the chase, and he was really bright." Ginny McGrath, of Ireland, went a step further: "This is the first three-day event where I haven't had to worry about my horse cooling down."

A great deal of planning and serious thought have gone in to making things comfortable for the horses, but also, a great deal of planning and serious thought have gone in to making a course that stretches them to the utmost. Therein lies the essential parodox of the business.

Sitting in a press tent at an equestrian event is unlike any other press gathering I know. Screams, gasps, oaths and terrible blasphemies greet every mistake. Everyone really *cares* — it is that kind of occasion. Ian Stark, leading the Brits as pathfinder, took the most appalling purler. My own "Oh God" was more prayer than blasphemy.

You always think that either the rider or the horse is dead, probably both. Poor old Stanwick Ghost, wonderfully willing, whacked his fence coming out of the water. He hit it so hard that he came within a toucher of going head over heels. Now that really *might* have killed them both.

Stark got up, shaken not stirred. Next thing, rider and horse had patched up their differences, settled out of court. The divorce was off again and so were they, galloping as if mistrust between horse and man were inconceivable. "I jumped the fence and he didn't," Stark said in the glorious afterglow of competition. "Unfortunately that doesn't count in the Olympics. The horse is fine. We had a brilliant finish."

The heat was not a problem for him. "So far as I am concerned, it puts the animal rights people in their place," he said. "We are as concerned as them." Meanwhile, the competition's chief vet, Kent Allen, said that animal rights people "would be disappointed today". This, of course, is graceless nonsense. Any person concerned about animal rights will be absolutely delighted that the horses' welfare was taken so seriously, and that the measures taken for them were so effective.

We are right to be concerned about the welfare of our beasts. But, really, three-day eventing is the worst possible target for anyone seriously concerned with animal rights. The horses, tested to the limit, are also loved and pampered to the limit. With luck, a wonderfully exhilarating, competitive life is followed by a long and comfortable retirement. Animal rights enthusiasts could find better targets.

Animals have rights, all right, but these rights were taken with appropriate seriousness at the three-day event. As for the paradox of *why* you must test your cherished beast over fences that terrify the life out of you, I cannot answer. It is the mystery of mysteries. Perhaps it is to do not with the wonder of trusting an animal of a different species, but of *being trusted.*

Dramatic Haining makes light of heavy challenge

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT
IN GAINESVILLE

PETER HAINING and Guin Batten both qualified for their sculls semi-finals on Lake Lanier yesterday, Haining with the drama he inevitably generates and Batten with a coolness which belied her achievement.

There were those who thought that Haining, world lightweight champion for the past three years, would not qualify for Atlanta as a heavyweight. He did.

Others said he would *not* make the top 12. He did that yesterday in a remarkable race into an unfriendly headwind when he had to finish first or second, where first was booked by the world champion, Iztok Cop, of Slovenia.

Fourth at 500 metres, Haining moved past the Finn, Soderblom, at 800 metres, but the young Australian, David Cameron, was 1½ lengths ahead of him at halfway. Haining did a scheduled push at 1,250 metres and crept back, finally moving to second, and semi-final qualification at 1,700 metres. "David rowed past me at Lucerne," said Haining. "Now I have returned the compliment."

Batten, who is Haining's training partner, under coach, Miles Forbes-Thomas who changed the boat rigging of both his protégés yesterday, qualified less dramatically. Needing to finish in the top three, she saw the German, Meike Evers, as "the opponent to target". At halfway, with the German lying fourth, the aim was achieved and Batten relaxed. "I dropped my race profile then. My objective was just to finish third," she said.

Bill Mason, the coach, not overjoyed at the performance of his women's eight on Monday, was uplifted when the crew's two spare rowers, Philippa Cross and Kate Mackenzie reached the semi-final of the women's pairs yesterday. They led at the start, were overhauled by the Czechs and South Africans, but held the vital third place to the final.

James Cracknell remained a spectator yesterday after earlier hopes that he would rejoin Rob Thatcher in the double sculls. His temperature was down, but his pulse rate was still high and Guy Pooley remained as substitute.

The British had to finish in the top two of their repechage to reach the semi-final and approached the task bravely being virtually level with Canada at 500 metres. By halfway Canada had moved away and Australia, with the 1992 Olympic champion, Peter Antonie, at bow, had moved to second, and Britain had no reply.

Disappointing Britons wilt in heats

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ATLANTA

FOR Britain, this was a crucial moment in their aquatic campaign. But a morning that started with high hopes and Paul Palmer's qualification for the final of the 400 metres freestyle and ended with a British record for the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay, was largely one of despondency, despair and underachievement.

Palmer, 21, from Lincoln, said he felt "heavy and a bit tired" but "hopeful for later" after beating Tom Dolan, the American tipped to win a final he failed to make, in the heats.

After Palmer, British observers could be excused for thinking they had been transported to Wimbledon as Briton after Briton failed to make the grade. Marie Hardiman, of Birmingham, could only manage 2mins 31.12sec, half a second outside her best, for twelfth place. She was the best.

The worst came from Neil Willey and Martin Harris, respectively third and fifth fastest in the world coming into Atlanta, who both failed to make the final of the 100m backstroke. Willey made the B final with a fifteenth place, but there was no second swim for Harris, who was 26th. Caroline Foot, at 31 the oldest team member, was also well off her best to finish 27th in the 100 metres butterfly.

The session ended on a more hopeful note, though. The quartet of Nicholas Shackell, Alan Rapley, Mark Stevens and Mike Fibbens shaved 0.07sec off the British record set in Barcelona, 1992, as 3min 21.34sec proved good enough to qualify in eighth place for the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay final. Stevens, from Macclesfield, swam a 49.97sec split, his first time under 50sec.

Australia maintain winning record

AUSTRALIA consolidated their position at the top of the table in the women's Olympic hockey tournament yesterday with a 1-0 victory over Germany (Sydney Friskin writes). It was Australia's third successive win and they are now the only team with maximum points.

Danni Roche scored the winning goal in the 25th minute with a fine solo effort after picking up a clearance near the 25-yard line.

Australia and the second-placed Germans seem unlikely to have the race all to themselves. Behind are the United States and South Korea, both with medal hopes. The Koreans were unlucky to lose 3-2 on the previous day to the Americans, who scored the winning goal five seconds from time through Barbara Marois. Argentina lifted themselves off the bottom of the table with a 1-0 victory over Spain, from a goal in the 44th minute by Jorgelina Rimoldi.

Fortunes continued to fluctuate in the men's event. On Monday Germany were within two minutes of dropping out of the running in Pool A when Saliger scored to level the match against India 1-1. In the second half, India had only kept in the match thanks to the goalkeeping of Subbaiah.

Against the run of play, Mukesh Kumar, of India, broke free to score in the 62nd minute but victory was eventually snatched from them. The results left Argentina at the top after a 5-2 victory over the United States. Spain were second on the same number of points.

In Pool B, after the 2-2 draw between Holland and Great Britain, there was no team with maximum points although Holland remain top with three points and Britain are still in the hunt, a point behind.

Des Loves Shazza show offers poolside light relief

Olympic night four and without doubt the best yet. Great gymnastics, superb swimming and some first-class flirting by Des Lynam. But more of *Des Loves Shazza* later.

Monday night was breakthrough time. When you find yourself getting excited by sports you know next to nothing about... then you can be certain that old Olympic magic is at work again. It should be all downhill from here.

But wait. More gymnastics and swimming? Wasn't that what we had last night and the night before? It is and it's also what we get tonight and tomorrow night as well. Gymnastics, swimming, bit of boxing, the odd hockey match... for those of us doing the Atlanta Games the hard way, the live way, the over-night way, they are hardly proving the spice of sporting life.

But if every night is as good as Monday night, well, to quote the great Barry Davies, "frankly, who cares". Quite why gymnastics and swimming are providing such good television is a bit of a mystery. After all, we British are proving pretty indifferent at both. To such an extent that Hamilton Bland ("Hammy" as Lynam calls him) has got the delivery of ill-tidings down to a fine art. "And now the final of... unfortunately Karen/Sarah/Helen/the 4 x 100 metres freestyle team just missed out in the heats... they go in the B final."

MATTHEW BOND
ON THE
TELEVISION
MARATHON

Instead, we win gold medals by proxy. "Congratulations," said Sharron Davies as a still dripping Michelle Smith stepped into shot. "You've won us another gold medal... I mean, you've won Ireland another gold medal." The slip was understandable. The BBC has taken Smith to its heart in a way that would be difficult to imagine from the more guarded tones of the morning newspapers. Presumably on the basis that even a swimmer is innocent until she has been proven guilty, there was no mention of her husband's steroids ban.

Lynam, having appeared to take a couple of days to shake off Wimbledon-lag, is back on top form. Some preview footage of the gymnastics that lay ahead prompted this gem: "Ah, you see — if only we had only looked after our bodies, we could do things like that."

One member of the BBC team, of course, has looked after her body, a fact which is now being shamelessly exploited by all involved. Most on-the-spot reporters are shot from the shoulders up. I mean, when did you last see Kate Adie's or Martin Bell's knees on camera. Sharron Davies, by contrast, is shot from the little toe up. "Nice, Sharron," said Lynam as the camera lingered over her latest ensemble, "very nice indeed".

"Thanks very much, Des," she replied, clearly happy with a spot of flattery if it furthers her media career. Whether her talents as a reporter further that career remains to be seen. She holds forth with eloquence and enthusiasm, but she does have a habit of forgetting key facts. Des prompts her as gently as he knows how. "I suppose we'd better mention him by name," he said after 60 seconds which had seen Davies in no danger of identifying Alexander Popov as the subject of her eulogy. "And just remind me of his event again?"

The gymnastics continues (as it will for some days) to pit Barry Davies, Mitch Fenner and Christine Still for the BBC against Nick Fellows and Monica Phelps for Eurosport. What is impressive (from a Eurosport point of view) is that there really is precious little to choose between them. For the first time it looks as if Eurosport really will cast off its reputation as a foreign channel that has been dubbed into English.

Crowd stunned by Popov's brilliance

Craig Lord salutes the elegant Russian who won the best 100 metres in swimming history

ALEXANDER POPOV may have emulated Johnny Weissmuller by retaining his 100 metres freestyle title but this Russian man of gold has no intention of turning his attentions to the silver screen.

Though graced with film-star looks and a pleasing personality, Popov, 24, has no interest in Hollywood. Asked to name his favourite actor, he replied: "This is an American question. I am reality, not them. They must dream about me."

Popov had only 0.07sec in hand over Gary Hall Jr, of the United States, on Monday night, so it was no swimaway victory in a final that saw all eight men break 50 seconds — the first time this has happened. Three set national records after qualification which produced eight sub-50 second swims and five national records. In the B final, three competitors broke 50 seconds and there was another national record.

What a shame that an audience so focused (America's favourite word) on its own boy and devastated by his defeat — silver medals are for losers — appeared not to fully appreciate Popov's brilliance.

Unlike the crowd of 7,000 that cheered Weissmuller in Paris (time: 59.0sec) and a similarly enthusiastic throng in Amsterdam (58.6sec) in 1928, the 15,000 spectators at the Georgia Tech pool were at fever pitch only until the result flashed up: 48.74 to 48.81 in favour of the Russian. With the patriotic volume turned down, Popov was rewarded with polite applause.

Popov had turned 0.09sec behind Hall but still seemed in control. There was no panic, no break of rhythm and no shortening of stroke as the benefit of training up to 90 kilometres a week — a phenomenal amount for a sprinter — paid dividends.

Hours of painstaking drills, his coach, Gennadi Touretski, argues, are the only way to ensure that perfection comes as second-nature under competition pressure.

It was late in 1989 that Touretski, who was talent-spotting, called in at a pool in Sverdlovsk. He took one look at the gangly youth gliding across the water on his back and announced: "Turn him over and he'll be a big star."

Elena Vaitsekhovkaia, who helps out with Popov's coaching when Touretski is away, said: "He likes to be a normal man. He's used to working hard, a simple life and talking to ordinary people. Other swimmers are not rivals, just swimmers trying to be first. And he's a swimmer used to coming first."

Why I'd treat the Olympics the same as any other race

As I have not swum in an Olympics (yet), I can not talk from experience about what it is like to be a competitor at the Games. However, I have spoken to many past Olympians and several of the swimmers here in Atlanta about the pressure and emotions of competing in what is probably the biggest competition of their lives.

The occasion affects people in different ways and I had hoped to be able to get among the swimmers poolside to get a personal feel of the atmosphere within the teams. Unfortunately, because of the strict security, this has not been possible, but from a distance you can see, during the warm-ups, for example, the buzz of activity. Nothing special is happening: everybody is just getting on with their job; but, if you took away all the surroundings and just looked into the pool, you could not really see any difference between this and any other large swimming competition.

A lot of people presume that the atmosphere must be extremely intense among the competitors but, in fact, it tends to be fairly relaxed. People are just sitting around, joking, cheering on colleagues or enjoying starting up chants.

Sometimes inexperienced competitors do become overwhelmed by the whole idea of being at the Olympic Games and, as a consequence, they swim badly. My coach, Bill Furniss, has always warned me of this problem. Time after time, he has said: "Just because it is the Olympics, Alex, nothing has to change. In the end, it's just another race."

ALEX BENNETT

Olympic diary

To practise this advice, though, is not always easy. The crowd at a big event can be intimidating and some swimmers find themselves too pressurized by it; others are lifted by the atmosphere and encouraged by all the support. The latter are the swimmers who will perform well. Therefore, at the Olympics, you can be confident that there is going to be a mix of excellent and poor swims.

When it comes to losing or swimming badly, you can talk about sadness, disappointment and despair, but often the predominant feeling is bewilderment. So, often, there is no explanation for: "Why did I swim badly; what went wrong?" The body language will say it all: a frown and a shrug of the shoulders. The worst aspect, however, is that there is nothing you can now do about it. You have had your chance and now it's gone. You are going to have to face another four, long years of training before you can try again. I have got another four years of training to endure, too, but in one way it is a little easier for me: at least I know exactly why I did not make it to the Olympics as a swimmer this time round.

Being here as a spectator feels strange and I'd much rather be swimming. I am really enjoying watching, though. I am getting fairly tense and emotional, particularly when my friends and colleagues swim. I have been waving my flag madly and my voice has almost gone ... I guess that this is all a part of being here at the Olympic Games.

Although no medals have been won yet by British swimmers, the team as a whole have not done badly: the best chances for medals are still to come, and they are keeping confident. I am not losing hope of seeing the Union Jack flying several times before the end of the week. I am keeping my fingers crossed and I will keep shouting, as I believe my hopes will be fulfilled.

Sniper lies in wait for one-paced bowlers

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

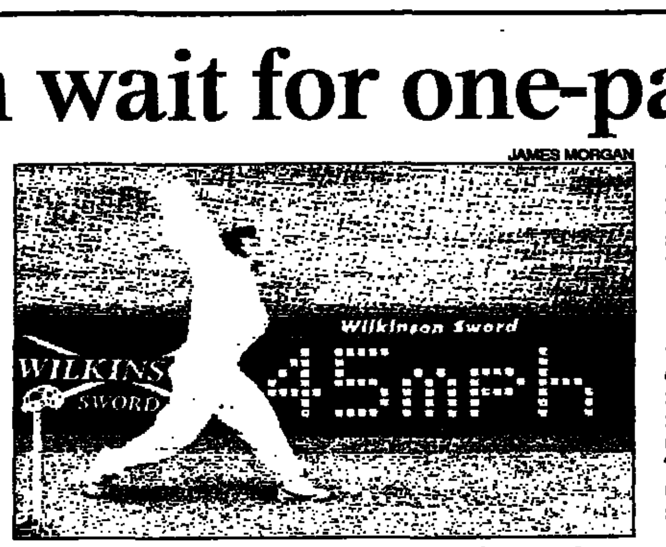
DEBATES over the pace of respective bowlers are as old as the game of cricket itself. From tomorrow, however, spectators need wonder no longer. The crowd at Lord's for the first Test between England and Pakistan will know the precise speed of each ball to within two seconds of its delivery.

The information will be displayed on an electronic screen, in the same way as service speeds are recorded at Wimbledon, and it comes by courtesy of an innovation called the "Sword Sniper". It is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser, the more so for the public-relations triumph of being launched on a ground where, until recently, modern technology was viewed with grave suspicion.

The Sniper, sponsored by Wilkinson Sword, was unveiled yesterday with a ceremonial trial run carried out by Chris Lewis, the England new-ball bowler. He was closely watched by Peter Lever, the team's bowling coach, who had a wager with Lewis that he could not register 87mph. Lever was right. Lewis's quickest ball was 83mph, fast enough for one about to undergo a fitness test on a troublesome thigh strain.

Tomorrow, the display screen will be positioned at the foot of the Edrich stand, visible to the majority of the sell-out crowd. It will be fed by information gleaned by radar guns at each end of the ground, whose signals are instantly processed by a central computer. Wasim Akram will barely have finished his follow-through before the measure of his latest effort is flashed up, and tests indicate that it will be accurate 98 times out of 100.

JAMES MORGAN



The Sniper is put through its paces at Lord's yesterday

Television viewers will also be able to enjoy the information. Essentially, it is an extension of an idea previously explored by BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owners of *The Times*, who wanted to insert miniature radar guns in the top pockets of umpires' coats, and there can be no doubting the appeal of the information.

Tim Crow, sales director of Sports and Outdoor Media, the company responsible for the innovation, said yesterday: "We believe this will revolutionise cricket-watching." An exaggeration, of course, but Crow had a point. "Every summer, countless column inches are devoted to the subject of bowlers' speeds. Until now, nobody has known for sure," he explained.

Agreement has also been secured for the Sniper to operate during the final Test of the summer, at the Oval next month, but Crow said there is so far no arrangement for its use in the second Test at Headingley.

It does, however, have the support and endorsement of the Test and County Cricket Board, whose chief executive-designate, Tim Lamb, indulged in a harmless exaggeration of his own when he claimed yesterday: "This reinforces the English game's reputation for successful innovation."

Lamb enthused over the scope of the Sniper, saying: "We will now know the speed range of slow bowlers, the pace of Shane Warne's flipper and the increases in speed when a star batsman comes in or when a fast bowler has just been hit for four, and when a fast bowler tries a slower ball. I like to think I used to do that effectively, but my team-mates wanted to know when I might learn how to bowl a quicker one."

IN BRIEF

Close-run thing for Times Cup

JOHN CARMICHAEL won *The Times* Challenge Cup at Bisley yesterday in a sudden-death finish with Tony Jones, a fellow member of the Great Britain team which last year won the world target rifle championship.

Carmichael, from North Piddle in Worcestershire, made 24 with his five tie-shots, then beat Jones, from Bath, by a V-bull to a "cooking bull" to win the trophy.

Nick Brasier, of London and Middlesex RA, also had 24.4 in the tie-shoot, but finished third with an inner in the sudden-death finish.

The Land Rover Grand Aggregate, the overall championship of the meeting, is still close, with Andy Gent three points in front of Steve Thomas, having scored 346 out of 350 in the first seven events.

☐ **Squash:** A mature performance from Adrian Grant, 15, helped England to beat Australia 2-1 in the final qualifying round of the world junior men's team championship in Cairo yesterday.

With John Russell having lost to Anthony Ricketts and Lee Beachill having beaten Stewart Boswell, a finalist in the individual event last week, Grant showed great maturity to overcome Paul Peters 9-6, 9-5, 9-0.

☐ **Cricket:** Richie Richardson will captain a World XI in a benefit match for Dermot Reeve, the Warwickshire captain, next month. Reeve, who announced his retirement last week because of a hip problem, has assembled an all-star side to take on his county at Edgbaston on August 3.

WORLD XI: R B Richardson, I R Bishop, M A Atherton, N H Fairbrother, P A de Silva, S T Jayasuriya, R G Twose, G Kirsten, B M McMillan, D J Richardson, M G Hughes

TENNIS: YORKSHIRE STALWART FINDS LURE OF COUNTY WEEK IRRESISTIBLE

Ickringill answers call to arms

By ALIX RAMSAY

WITH some dogs you simply cannot teach them new tricks. It does not matter how many times you try to tell them, they still keep plugging away in the same old vein. County Week is no exception. Regardless of the conditions, the results and the workload, the players keep coming back for more. You cannot keep them away.

Simon Ickringill has been trying not to come to Eastbourne for some time. He made his debut for Yorkshire 18 years ago as a promising young thing of 21. Now playing his nineteenth County Week, Friday will mark his last appearance for the team. Probably. He is willing to commit himself to a definite maybe about that one, but when it comes to Yorkshire's hopes, the call to battle stirs the heart every time.

"I think the time has come to start sending some juniors down," he said, somewhat disgruntled after his second defeat of the day. A three-set slog in a fierce and blustering wind had seen Ickringill and Richard Oades lose 6-7, 6-3, 7-6 to Nick Fulwood and Kenny Wood, of Derbyshire, and that after having three match points at 5-4. "The problem is we never have any juniors free to play. If Yorkshire are desperate I'll be back, but this is probably my last one. I am 39 years old after all," Ickringill said.

There are compensations for the disappointments of advancing years and dogged opponents, though. County Week is, according to those who have sampled its mixed delights, different to any other tournament. "It is one of the few opportunities we get to see each other," Ickringill said. "I suppose it's the team spirit that is one of the attractions."

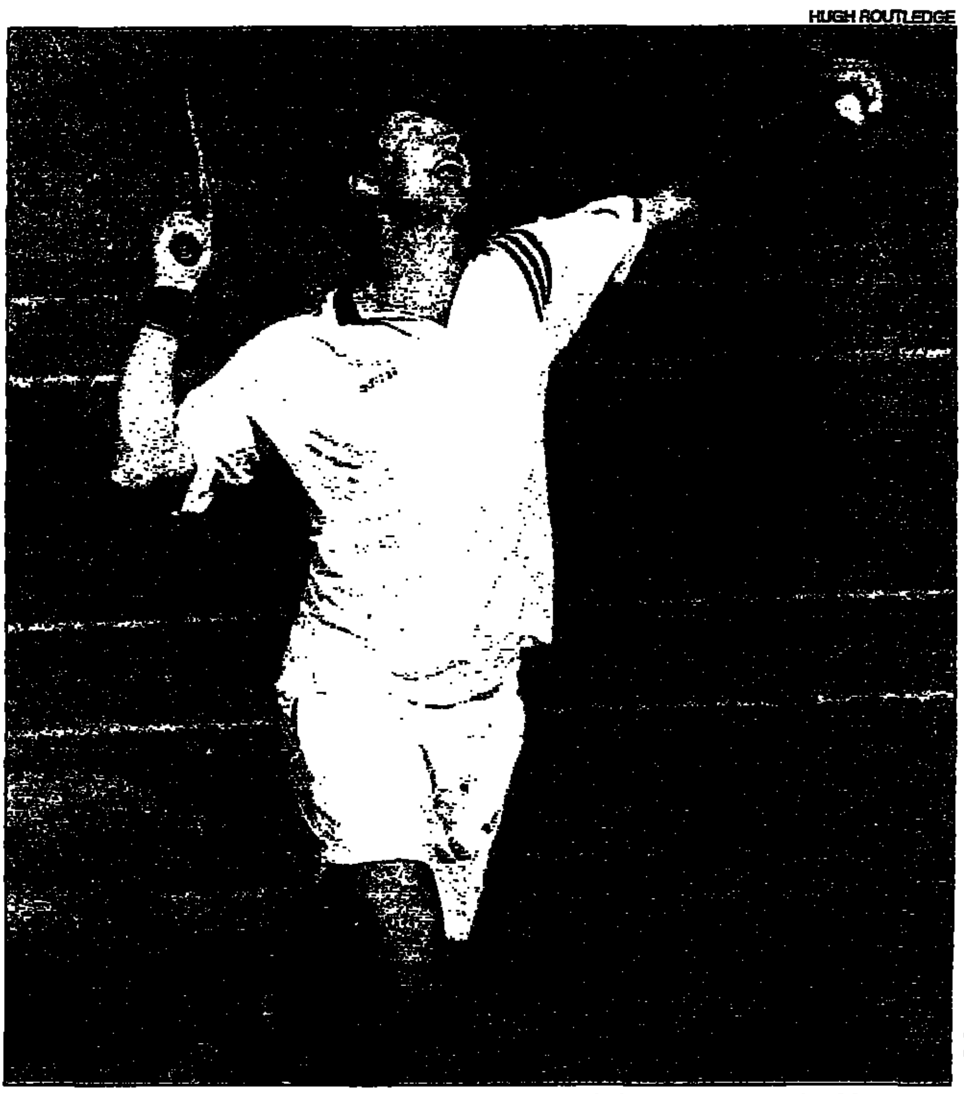
That and defending the honour of Yorkshire. Ickringill is big in Yorkshire. He won the Yorkshire championships eight times between 1981 and 1989 and during his stint as the county's stalwart during County Week, Yorkshire have claimed the championship title three times. Not bad for a lad who never had any individual coaching when he was starting out. "And you can still see the technical defects if you look hard enough," he said.

For the last 14 years he has earned his crust as a coach at Ilkley tennis club. He had tried his luck on the circuit, heading for South Africa and the satellite circuit, but after a year the money ran out and when Ilkley LTC offered the chance of regular money and a way to pay the mortgage he settled for the security. "I carried on playing in UK events and for the county," he said. "But that's half the problem of this event, I haven't played a tournament for a while and then you come straight into this. It takes me a couple of rubbers to get going again."

Getting going was a general problem yesterday. The conditions conspired to make life miserable for everyone. As the wind grew stronger and stronger so the courts were strewn with low-flying drinks cans, coffee cups and scoreboards, while one poor chap was beaned by a falling sign which was pointing the way to the first-aid centre and probably explains why he was not hurt.

The champions, Devon, were blown away 6-3 by Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, whose top pair of Chris Wilkinson and Lawrence Matthews breezed through their three rubbers without dropping a set. Life was a lot easier for Essex, the women's champions, who swept past Warwickshire 7-2.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Ickringill fights a losing three-set battle for Yorkshire against Derbyshire

MONDAY'S LATE LTA COUNTY CUP RESULTS

MEN: Group one (Eastbourne): Devon 8 Leicestershire 1; Surrey 6 Yorkshire 3; Hampshire and Isle of Wight 8 Derbyshire 1. Group two (Cromer): Buckinghamshire 5 Essex 4; Kent 8 Dorset 1; Berkshire 5 Lancashire 4. Group three (Hunstanton): West of Scotland 8 Middlesex 1; Hertfordshire 5 Lincolnshire 4; Warwickshire 5 South Wales 4. Group four (Purley): Somerset 6 Northamptonshire 3; Nottinghamshire 6 Cambridge 3; Wiltshire 8 Oxfordshire 3. Group five (Cambridge): Cheshire 5 Hereford and Worcester 4, Norfolk 8 Sussex 1, Durham and Cleveland 5 Durham 4. Group six (Bude): Northumberland 7 Bedfordshire 2; North of Scotland 9 Shropshire 0, East of Scotland 7 Cornwall 2. Group seven (Southsea): Gloucestershire 7 South of Scotland 2; Staffordshire 9 North Wales 0; Suffolk 9 Channel Islands 0; Cumbria 8 Isle of Man 1.

WOMEN: Group one (Eastbourne): Essex 7 Leicestershire 2; Middlesex 6 Surrey 3; Warwickshire 5 Kent 4. Group two (Oxford): Yorkshire 9 Hampshire and Isle of Wight 0; Hertfordshire 5 Sussex 4; South Wales 7 Lancashire 2. Group three (Cheltenham): Oxfordshire 8 Staffordshire 1; Norfolk 6 Lincolnshire 3; Berkshire 6 Cambridgeshire 3. Group four (Worthing): Derbyshire 5 Buckinghamshire 4; Bedfordshire 5 Devon 4; Northamptonshire 8 Cheshire 1. Group five (Felixstowe): Hereford and Worcester 6 North of Scotland 3; Gloucestershire 6 Northumberland 3; Dorset 6 Durham and Cleveland 3. Group six (Exmouth): Nottinghamshire 5 Wiltshire 4; Suffolk 5 Shropshire 4; East of Scotland 5 West of Scotland 4. Group seven (East Molesey): Somerset 9 South of Scotland 0; North Wales 8 Channel Islands 1; Avon 5 Cornwall 4; Cumbria 8 Isle of Man 1.

TEST DRIVE
YOUR BRAIN

WALK [ ] NEXT
ZERO [ ] CALF
EVEN [ ] ADDS
KNIT [ ] INTO
CLAD [ ] FLEE
KERB [ ] YELP
GERM [ ] ROAD

On each line place a letter in the space which, when substituted for the first letter of the word either side, will form another word in each case. The seven letters used will give another word reading downwards. What is it ?

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Mensa

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting

Qualification: six completed innings

		M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50
1	Saeed Anwar (Pakistan)	4	7	1	591	219*	98.50	3	1
2	S Lee (Somerset)	8	11	4	679	167*	97.00	2	5
3	S C Ganguly (India)	9	14	6	762	136	95.25	3	4
4	G P Thorpe (Surrey)	10	19	4	1285	185	85.66	6	4
5	M G Bevan (Yorkshire)	10	18	3	1152	160*	76.80	3	8
6	K Greenfield (Sussex)	6	10	3	518	154*	74.00	3	1
7	J E R Gallian (Lancashire) ..	7	14	3	730	312	66.36	2	2
8	S P Titchard (Lancashire) . .	6	10	2	520	163	65.00	2	2
9	A J Hollioake (Surrey)	10	18	4	908	128	64.85	3	4
10	M A Butcher (Surrey)	10	20	2	1158	160	64.33	3	9
11	S R Tendulkar (India)	7	11	0	707	177	64.27	2	5
12	A N Aymes (Hampshire)...... .	10	16	8	512	113	64.00	2	1
13	T M Moody (Worcestershire)	11	17	3	887	212	63.35	4	3
14	S G Law (Essex)	10	18	1	1044	153	61.41	5	1
15	*M D Moxon (Yorkshire)*.	*7*	*14*	*3*	*689*	*213*	*60.81*	*2*	*2*
16	C J Adams (Derbyshire)	12	21	2	1151	239	60.57	4	5
17	M Keech (Hampshire)	5	8	1	423	104	60.42	1	3
18	R T Robinson (Notts)	9	17	2	883	184	58.86	3	3
19	H Morris (Glamorgan)	9	15	2	764	202*	58.76	3	3
20	G D Lloyd (Lancashire)	8	12	1	630	241	57.27	1	3

* *denotes not out*

Bowling

Qualification: 20 wickets

		O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5I	10m
1	C E L Ambrose (Northants)	115.3	27	307	24	12.79	6-65	4	1
2	Mushtaq Ahmed (Pakistan)	101	24	323	21	15.38	7-81	3	1
3	M A Ealham (Kent)	223.3	74	581	33	17.60	8-36	2	1
4	C A Walsh (Gloucestershire)	233.1	68	596	31	19.22	6-57	2	—
5	D R Law (Sussex)	184	29	649	29	22.37	5-33	2	—
6	M W Alleyne (Gloucs)	244.4	66	654	29	22.55	8-32	2	—
7	S M Pollock (Warwickshire)	326.4	83	840	37	22.70	6-56	1	—
8	L Klusener (South Africa A)	136.2	29	457	20	22.85	5-74	1	—
9	C A Connor (Hampshire)	320.3	88	937	40	23.42	5-57	1	—
10	A J Harris (Derbyshire)	216	44	775	33	23.48	6-40	2	1
11	S J E Brown (Durham)	435	79	1341	56	23.94	6-77	4	—
12	D J Millns (Leicestershire) ...	337.1	83	1056	44	24.00	6-54	1	1
13	A M Smith (Gloucestershire)	302.1	69	937	39	24.02	8-73	2	1
14	K D James (Hampshire)	187.5	38	507	21	24.14	5-74	1	—
15	G D Rose (Somerset)	244.3	65	726	30	24.20	7-47	2	1
16	G J Parsons (Leicestershire)	286.1	76	760	31	24.51	4-21	—	—
17	P J Martin (Lancashire)	224	57	540	22	24.54	7-50	1	—
18	A D Mullally (Leicestershire)	366	96	1033	42	24.59	6-47	2	1
19	M P Bicknell (Surrey)	341	86	987	40	24.67	5-17	2	—
20	A F Giles (Warwickshire)	319.5	109	743	30	24.76	5-70	1	—

☐ *Source: TCCB/PA Cricket Record*

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, first day of four, 104 overs minimum
KIDDERMINSTER: Worcestershire v Northamptonshire
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Somerset

Tour match
10.45, 50 overs
CHELTENHAM: Gloucestershire v South Africa A

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three): Bristol: Gloucestershire v Durham. Hinckley: Leicestershire v Derbyshire. Harrow CC: Middlesex v Yorkshire. Bedford School: Northamptonshire v Lancashire. Cleethorpes: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan. The Oval: Surrey v Hampshire. Hove: Sussex v Worcestershire. Walmley CC: Warwickshire v Essex.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Kimbolton School: Cambridgeshire v Buckinghamshire; Askam: Cumberland v Staffordshire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Uefa Cup
Preliminary round, second leg
Crusaders (0) v Zalgiris Vilnius (2) ... ...
Dinamo Minsk (1) v Bohemians (1) (4.0)
Skonto Riga (4) v Newtown (1) (4.30) .
Slovan Bratislava (4) v St Patrick's Ath (3) (5.0) .. ..
Vojvodina (1) v Portadown (0) (4.30) ....

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Bray v Dunfermline; Caernarfon v Wigan (7.0); Dundalk v Celtic; Shamrock v Hearts; Thackley v Bradford; Waterford v Southampton; Dagenham and Redbridge v West Ham (7.45); Sunderland v Steaua Bucharest (7.45); Enfield v Arsenal; Aldershot v Fulham (7.45); Southend v Motherwell (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Hull v Swindon (7.30); Long Eaton v Poole (7.30).
TENNIS: LTA inter-county championships, Men's Northern Electric Open (at David Lloyd Centre, Newcastle).

POLO

Bollini unstoppable

THE Cowdray Park club's Goodwood week opened at Ambersham, Sussex, yesterday, with the medium-goal five-chukka Harrison Cup Challenge, for which there are 15 entries. Eric Kirby's team, West Sphere, beat Innerwick, put together by Roger Whewell, of the Ascot Park club 7-5.

Both these quartets were playing off the top aggregate team handicap for this tournament, which is 15. Innerwick deployed a useful balance of five-goalers in the professional element of their line-up, but they could not stop West Sphere's eight-handicap Argentine No 3, Juan Bollini, who scored all his side's goals. Strikes from the mallets of Gitano Cuitino and Jonny Wade helped reduce Innerwick's deficit in the fifth chukka.

WEST SPHERE: 1, M Austin (0); 2, O Ellis (5); 3, J Bollini (8); back, A Kirby (2).
INNERWICK: 1, R Whewell (0); 2, J Wade (5); 3, G Cuitino (5); back, J Dixon (5)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

SCHULTZE
(c) An explosive having nitrolignin as its chief constituent, first made in England in 1863. Hence a *Schultze cartridge*, one charged with this gunpowder. And eponym of the inventor Eduard *Schultze*, used attributively. "Schultze powder... Schultze gunpowder is manufactured from light fibrous woods."
SLANK
(a) Of persons, parts of the body, the hair: lank and thin. Probably an adaptation of the Dutch and Low German word. "They wound religion through his slank sides."
SCYPHUS
(b) A name given by Haller to the corona of certain plants when forming a cup or funnel-shaped appendage. From the Greek *skuphos* a large drinking-vessel without a foot.
SNARLER
(c) A species of pedlar or hawker. Apparently from the verb *to snarl*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxf6+! Kxf6 (1 ... gxf6 2 Nd5 is immediate mate) 2 Nd5+ Ke5 3 Nf3+ Kxe4 4 Nc3 mate

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RADIO CHOICE

Suez: a tale of two conflicts

Suez 1956: The Crisis and The Consequences. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*
It all happened 40 years ago. Nasser suddenly grabbed the Suez Canal. Britain and France bombed and invaded the Canal Zone. Israeli forces crossed into the Sinai Peninsular lines. Radio 4's linked programmes about the 1956 crisis award Nasser more pluses than minuses. With Anthony Eden, it's the other way around. It is probably true, that if ever a conflict of personalities changed history, it was the one between Nasser and Eden. A note of what sounds like jingoism is struck by Sir Thomas Pickett, chief of staff of the Suez Air Task Force: "It was a marvellous inter-service exercise. Once the thing got going, we probably all enjoyed it."

Whippets and Marsupials. *Radio 4, 9.45am.*
This is feel-good radio. An undemanding addition to Radio 4's summertime schedule. Andy and family and Simon and family briefly swap houses. A terraced dwelling in County Durham for a bush bungalow in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia. The two men pack in their middle-management jobs to try something more exciting. They keep in touch through tape-recorded letters. Wet, snowy, winter for Simon and family in County Durham, scones freshly baked by good neighbour, cat gets tail pulled by infant. Hot summer days in South Australia for Andy and family. Cool wine on the terrace, parrots flitting to and fro, wife tears a ligament in her knee.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.30am Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **11.30** Radio 1 Roadshow, live from Scarborough **12.30pm** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Bits from Last Week's Radio **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Claire Sturgess **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** *Jimmy Young* **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Ralph McTell with Folk on 2 **8.00** Upstream with Bellamy (3/6) **8.30** Wellwishers (4/4) **9.00** Frank Hennessy's Wales. A new series in which the folk musician Frank Hennessy travels all over Wales **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Olympic Breakfast Programme **8.35** The *Magazine, with Diana Madill*, incl **10.35** News from Europe **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.00** Inverdale's Olympics. The morning's news from Atlanta incl cycling and swimming **5.35** Nationwide incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** Olympic News Extra, incl at **7.20** Sports and Olympic Roundup **7.45** Atlanta Live, with Sybil Roscoe and Ian Payne includes tennis, boxing, cycling, eventing and yachting **10.00** Night Extra **11.05am** Inverdale's Olympics, incl badminton, boxing, cycling and hockey **3.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross **10.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **5.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sports Zone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST. 5.00am** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.05** Olympics **7.30** Megamix **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Pop Science **9.00** News in German **9.15** Concert Hall **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Andy Kershaw **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Thirty-Minute Drama **1.00** News in German **1.30** Composer of the Month **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Megamix **4.00** News **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Science View **6.30** News in German **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Pop Science **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News Summary **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Multitrack **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.10am** Science View **12.15** Country Style **12.30** Multitrack **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** From Our Own Correspondent **1.45** *Britain Today* **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Meridian **4.00** News **4.05** Olympics **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Margaret Howard **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Gardening Forum (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Mark Forrest **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Locatelli (Concerto in F for four violins, Op 4 No 12); Khachaturian (Piano Concerto); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in D minor, Op 12 No 2); Bantock (Two Heroic Ballads); Saint-Saëns (Havanaise); Barber (Summer Music)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A, Op 101); Monteverdi (Signor, Deh, non partire! L'Incoronazione di Poppea); Walton (Sonata for Strings)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Presented by Chris de Souza. Torke (Javelin); Schumann (Adagio and Allegro, Op 70); Anthony Milner (The Harrowing of Hell) **10.30** *Proms Artist of the Week*: Andras Schiff, piano. Bach (Concerto in A, BWV 1055) **10.45** Franck (Chorale No 1 in E); Schumann (Symphony No 2 in C); Bach (French Suite No 5 in G, BWV 816)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Kurt Weill
1.00 Manchester Summer Recitals. The Royal Northern College of Music Brass Band, under Peter Parkes and Michael Fowles. Bliss (Kenilworth); Robert Simpson (Introduction on an Allegro and Bass by Max Reger); George Benjamin (Altitude); John McCabe (Salamander)
2.00 Midweek Choice. Includes Rimsky-Korsakov (Quintet in B flat for piano and wind); Poulenc (Motet: Vinea mea electa); William Crotch (Organ Concerto No 2 in A); Beamish (Tuscan Lullaby)
4.00 Choral Evensong
5.00 The Music Machine
5.15 In Tune. Gottschalk, arr Kay (Cakewalk, excts); Thalberg (Fantasy on Rossini's Barber of Seville); Goldmark (Violin Concerto in A minor)
7.30 BBC Proms 1996. With Christine Brewer, soprano, the Trinity College of Music Chamber Choir, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Mark Elder. Wagner (Overture: Venusberg Music, Tannhauser); Strauss (Four Last Songs) **8.20** The Flesh Made Word **8.40** Proms Part 2. Dvořák (Overture: In Nature's Realm); Bax (Spring Fire)
9.35 My Tocher's the Jewel. Kirsteen McCue explores the songs of Robert Burns (3/5)
10.00 Voices. The second of two programmes, from the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh, to mark the bicentenary of Robert Burns who died in July 1796. Featuring Lorna Anderson, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo, Christopher Maltman, baritone, and Malcolm Martineau, piano. Includes pieces by Schumann, Rimsky-Korsakov and Mendelssohn
10.45 Harrison's Bigwigs. The second of two dramatised portraits of contemporaries of Henry Purcell. Carey Harrison plays the painter Sir Godfrey Kneller
11.30 Composer of the week: Haydn (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **(LW only) 6.00** News Briefing incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 In the Psychiatrist's Chair. Lord McAlpine (5/8) (r)
9.45 Whippets and Marsupials. See Choice (1/4)
10.00 News; A Good Read (FM only). In the last of the series, Sarah Dunant is joined by Angela Berners Wilson and Ned Temko
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 On This Day (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Geoffrey Smith (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm No Commitments. A new series of the comedy drama series by Simon Brett. With Rosemary Leach, Nicola Pagett and Celia Imrie (1/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Curiosity Cabinet, by Catherine Czerkawska. A play set in the 18th century. With John Uick, Celt Kearney and Grace Glover (2/3)
2.45 Letters from Abroad. Veronica Cecil explores the *myth of the Pathan warriors* (5/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews the week's film releases including Sean Penn's *The Crossing Guard*, starring Jack Nicholson and Angelica Huston
4.45 Short Story: I Do Dance, by Elizabeth Batory. Read by Zulema Dene
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Brain of Britain 1996 (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Suez 1956: The Crisis. See Choice
8.00 Suez 1956: The Consequences. See Choice
8.35 Molly's 90s A celebration of the life and humour of the writer Molly Keane
9.00 Costing the Earth, with Mark Whittaker
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Merry Muse. Michael Mackenzie reads Eric Linklater's comic novel (8/10)
11.00 Educated Evans. The comedy by Edgar Wallace. Narrated by Freddie Jones With Roy Hudd, Andrew Sachs, Michael Roberts, Pat Coombes and David Battley (1/4)
11.30 Twenty Players (FM only) (3/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
11.45 The Shuttleworths. Written and performed by Graham Fellows (3/6) (r)
12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Secret World of the Irish Male, by Joe O'Connor (3/5) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson and Jane Gregory**

Losing faith, hope and charity in Walford

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

People in theatre and television are terribly fond of the phrase "suspension of disbelief" (SoD). It's a clever-sounding utility phrase, handy for propping up all sorts of ailing arty conversations, particularly when the user is also propping up a bar. Personally, however, I've always had a terrible problem with it. There is something about suspending a disanything that sends me into a terrible logical spin. It's like a double negative, but worse.

Each time I have to unravel it back to first principles. Only then do I remember that all those linguistic convolutions conceal a simple truth — you are supposed to believe what you are watching. Which brings us to last night's **EastEnders** (BBC1). Put it like this, if Grant Mitchell suddenly leaned against the bar at the Queen Vic and sighed: "Don't know about you bro', but I'm having a spot of bother with the old SoD" I wouldn't be the least bit surprised.

Some of the things that concern me are small things — such as the fact that it is the voice of Mark Fowler that currently urges us to watch four times a week. Now, forgive me if I'm wrong, but I thought Mark ran a fruit and veg stall in Walford. He wouldn't do voice-overs for the BBC, would he? But Todd Carty, the actor who plays him, might. The result? I am no longer convinced that there is a Mark. I have become an *EastEnders* agnostic. Perhaps Sarah will pray for me.

But I may be past saving. The galloping subplot disease that currently consumes Albert Square is threatening to take credibility well past breaking point. Storylines compete to be badder and sadder than anything that has gone before. Arthur is dead. Mark has HIV. Tiffany is pregnant. Barry is an arsonist. Felix has found his long-lost sister and Bianca is about to do something she probably shouldn't. And then there is David Wicks, that one man gene-pool littering the square with former wives, mistresses and assorted offspring. The longing for a really dull subplot to come along is overpowering.

The most damaging threat to the dramatic future, however, is the clumsy attempts at humour. Nige and Sanjay's Seventies night was always going to be "a larff, mate", but nobody ever said what sort of larff. Nigel with his Gary Glitter bouffant and sparkly cheeks I could take — just — but the shouted telephone message that summoned the star DJ away — "it's your mother-in-law... your wife's in Walford General... the water's have broken" — never.

As for Bianca's rendition of *Save All Your Kisses for Me*, I have a feeling that when that was a hit she wasn't even a twinkle in the Wicks eye. At the end of an exhausting, improbable but still enjoyable evening, only one thing was certain. She certainly wasn't saving all her kisses for Ricky.

Last night's **Double Exposure: The Golden Collar** (BBC2) also featured a musical flashback. Mark McGann walked into a frighteningly cool Liverpool nightclub and asked the DJ to play some George Michael. This being Liverpool and this being late night BBC2 what he got, of course, was Wham! He got whammed in the eye, whammed on the nose and took several whams to the stomach. He was a mess and so was much of what followed.

But, having said that, Eamonn Sexton, the latest young writer to be given his 44 minutes of fame, had created a central character capable of carrying something far more ambitious in scale than this — or at least I think he had. McGann played Jack Tree, a chaotic, workoholic, drinkoholic solicitor who specialised in personal injury claims paid for by legal aid. The clever bit was that he saw the compensation awards he obtained for his impoverished clients as a sort of Robin Hood-like redistribution of wealth. The golden collar of the title was the surgical collar of the whiplash victim. On the other hand, Tree may just have been a bent brief — and I've made the rest of it up.

Given that his character and motivations were never really established, McGann turned in a cracking performance in the lead, and was well supported by Claire Holman, as his more-off-than-on girlfriend, and Scot Williams, as Wham, his attacker turned ally. Whether his name being Wham (full name Wham Sham: The Car Valeting Man) was significant or not, was just one of many things I was left uncertain of in a work where confusion was generated by a shortage of plot (left to your own devices, it's surprising how quickly you can tie yourself up in knots) and an abundance of dialogue delivered in muttered Scouse. Still, as first goes go, not bad.

Only a few days ago, I was railing against the current fad for over-long documentaries. Well, do you know something? I haven't changed my mind at all. For an hour **True Stories: Edge of Madness** (Channel 4) had been a top-flight documentary — combining a straightforward, matter-of-fact explanation of schizophrenia with the moving and distressing true accounts of the title. Sadly, however, there was half an hour of psycho-babble and therapy-speak still to come.

The last word should have belonged to Barrie's marvellous mum who argued most eloquently for a rethink of Government policy on care for the mentally ill, based on her experience with her now adult son. "You have to live with the illness 24 hours a day, year in and year out — then you can say you understand it. If they want community care to work, this Government needs people like me." I didn't doubt it for a minute.

● *Lynne Truss is on holiday*

6.00am Business Breakfast (69182)

7.00 Olympic Breakfast. A round-up of the overnight action including some of the swimming finals, Britain v USA in the women's hockey, gymnastics, bowing, yachting and tennis (s) Includes **7.15, 7.45, 8.15** News (90453)

9.00 News (Ceefax) (4837989)

9.05 Olympic Grandstand. Extended highlights from last night's action. Featuring the finals of five swimming events, the climax of the women's team gymnastics title and Britain v USA in the women's hockey competition (s). Includes **11.00, 12.00** News and weather (49225960)

12.35pm Neighbours. Susan and Brett bid farewell to Africa (Ceefax) (s) (9603415)

1.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (93540)

1.30 Regional News and weather (12221415)

1.40 Olympic Grandstand. Featuring coverage of the final discipline in the three-day event. Nick Gillingham will be aiming for a place in the 200m breaststroke final and world short-course champion Sarah Hardcastle starts in the 800m freestyle heats (s) (94430231)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (463618)

6.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (347)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (927)

7.00 The Essential Olympics. Desmond Lynam reviews the day's events so far. Including the closing stages of the three-day-event team competition. Plus, Graeme Obree in action at the cycling velodrome in the early rounds of the men's pursuit competition, gold medal hopefuls Nick Gillingham competes in the 200m breaststroke and Sarah Hardcastle goes in the 800m freestyle heats in the pool, coverage of the lightweight judo finals plus the latest news from the tennis courts (Ceefax) (s) (81705)

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (Ceefax) (2724)

9.30 CHOICE **Inside Story: Miracle Babies — The Story of the Dionne Quintuplets** (Ceefax) (s) (982453)

10.20 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces more live coverage including **10.30** Gymnastics: The fifth day of the competition (s) **12.20am** Swimming: Live action from the swimming pool including **12.31** Men's 200m breaststroke which will feature Britain's Nick Gillingham **12.47** Women's 200m individual medley **1.13** Men's 100m butterfly **1.35** Women's 4 x 100m medley relay **1.45** Weightlifting/Three-Day Eventing **2.20** Yachting/Boxing/Tennis/Badminton/Beach Volleyball/Indoor Volleyball/Basketball. Plus all the latest Olympic news (s) (64446366)

4.25 Impressions: The Miller. A portrait of Yorkshireman George Leatt, who is not only the proud owner of an old watermill but is a well-known judge in the canine world (s) (30001309)

4.40 FILM: The Company She Keeps (1951, b/w) with Dennis O'Keefe, Lizabeth Scott and Jane Greer. Romantic drama about a woman parolee experiencing problems settling back into life on the outside after serving a two-year jail sentence for forgery. Directed by John Cromwell (61918670) Ends **6.00am**

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.10am Open University: Modelling Turkeys (6790163) **6.35 A Day in the Life** (8214502) **7.00 Breakfast News** (Ceefax) (50678714)

9.05 Spiderman (r) (s) (3345279) **9.25 Cartoon Critters** (Ceefax) (s) (6438892) **9.55 Poddington Peas** (r) (6324366) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (6301415) **10.25 The Record** (5227705)

10.50 Man in a Suitcase (Ceefax) (9918618) **11.40 The Addams Family** (Ceefax) (r) (2549415) **12.05pm The Phil Silvers Show** (r) (7040521) **12.30 Working Lunch** (86163) **1.00 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams** (r) (76011095) **1.15 A-Z of Food** (72840637) **1.25 Wear It Well** (76090502)

1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (2139057) **2.20 I'm Still a Tourist: Chester Zoo** (r) (38205811) **2.30 The Time of Your Life** (7258328) **2.50 Don't Be an Anorak!** (1080499) **3.00 News,** and weather (Ceefax) (9111434) **3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross** (Ceefax) (6008328) **3.55 News** and weather (Ceefax) (2659328)

4.00 Cartoon (7205366) **4.05 The Family Ness** (7204637) **4.10 Run the Risk** (5612182) **4.30 Cartoon Critters** (724) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (8575231) **5.10 Earthfasts** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7941786)

5.35 FILM: The Black Stallion (1979) with Mickey Rooney, Kelly Reno, Teri Garr, Clarence Muse, Hoyt Axton and Michael Higgins. The adventures of a young boy shipwrecked off the coast of Africa. Directed by Carroll Ballard (54416368)

Abida Hussain and husband (7.30pm)

7.30 CHOICE **The *Dynasty*.** Roshan Seth narrates a series on the ruling elite of Pakistan (Ceefax) (s) (453)

8.00 School: Who is Sylvia? Life at Francis Combe Comprehensive in Watford (Ceefax) (s) (3331)

8.30 Wild Harvest with Nick Nairn. Nick travels to Lewis, where he scours the shore for mussels and trawls for lobsters (Ceefax) (s) (6328)

9.00 Olympic Grandstand. Sue Barker introduces judo, gymnastics, tennis, badminton and boxing action (s) (1995724)

10.20 2 Dance: Storm Hands. The final two films of the dance season. In *Hands*, only arms and hands are visible in a subtle dance. In *Man Act*, real fathers and sons explore how power and control are passed from generation to generation (s) (116705)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (537347)

11.15 CHOICE **Double Exposure: Seed.** Three friends are at the crossroads of their lives (Ceefax) (s) (145540)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (41651)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Survival Special: A Space in the Heart of Africa

ITV, 8.00pm

This extraordinary wildlife film, narrated by Ian Holm, has "award-winning" written all over it. Penetrating deep into the heart of the rainforests of Zaire, Alan Root and his team came back with footage capturing some of the most elusive and rarest of Africa's animals. The spaces alluded to in the title are the clearings in the dense vegetation created and maintained by the forest elephants. A delicate balance of animals and weather ensures a habitat in which a multitude of wildlife thrives. Among Root's stunning achievements is the first sighting by a naturalist of the fishing genet, a species whose existence was only established in the 1930s. He also sights Africa's rarest bird, the Congo peacock.

The Dynasty

BBC2 7.30pm

Abida Hussain is no soap opera invention. She is the matriarch of one of the 500 or so feudal families who have dominated the political system of Pakistan since partition in 1947. These families derive their influence and status from a potent mix of economics and religion. Both Abida and her husband (and cousin) Fakher Imam are politicians and large landowners who dispense justice and charity to their peasants like benevolent despots. They are also Shia Muslims, direct descendants of Mohammed, and regarded as living saints. But, as this three-part series demonstrates, the old order is under threat. The peasants are fed up and the younger members of the family unwilling to follow tradition. We are Abida's guests as she shows us round her domain, but like any observant visitors, we see more than perhaps we were meant to.

Inside Story: Miracle Babies

BBC1, 9.30pm

With today's fertility treatments, multiple births are a fairly common occurrence. In the depression years of the 1930s, such an event was viewed as little less than a miracle. The Dionne girl quintuplets were born to a poor farming couple in the depths of rural Canada. The attending doctor, Allan Dafoe, immediately took over their care. The public flocked in their millions to watch the girls, who were paraded for their amusement. The centre of a multi-million dollar industry, they grew up little better than circus freaks, knowing nothing of love. In their first interview together, the three remaining sisters tell their stories. Hesitant, reserved and awkward, they blame no one and wish for nothing. Just ten million of the $500 million the Ontario government made out of them. Not much to ask, considering.

Double Exposure: Seed

BBC2, 11.15pm

Tonight's dollop of drama from writers new to television is a story stuffed with biblical allegories and metaphors. It pivots around a make-or-break year for three young friends of differing racial backgrounds in Birmingham. Written by Bradley Cole, the tale is both a rites-of-passage story and a look at the choices facing today's youth. Ben is a third-generation West Indian who has to decide between a dead-end job or returning to Jamaica and a better life. His Asian girlfriend Hashi must choose between marrying as her family wishes or staying with Ben. His best friend is Les, a white boy with a history of violence who dreams of leaving his estranged baby something wonderful — a field hacked out of the wasteland. Together they sow the soil, but which of these three seeds will flourish and which will fail?

Frances Lass

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1179569)

9.25 Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (r) (Teletext) (s) (6441366) **9.50 Hope and Gloria** (7900960)

10.20 News headlines (9386602)

10.25 HTV News (Teletext) (9385873)

10.30 FILM: Laker Girls (1989) Musical drama with Tina Yothers and Erin Gray. Directed Bruce Seth Green (86994231)

12.20pm HTV News (2118163)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (9622540)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (9607231) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5867637) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (61507076)

2.25 FILM: This Wife for Hire (1985) with Pam Dawber and Robert Klein. Comedy about woman hiring herself out to perform domestic duties only. Part two can be seen tomorrow. Directed by James R. Drake (7707705)

3.20 News (9128724) **3.25 HTV News** (9127095) **3.30 Alphabet Castle** (3392892) **3.40 Wizadora** (1064618) **3.50 Magic Adventures of Mumfie** (6504873) **4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures** (5699231) **4.40 Are You Afraid of the Dark?** (2289724)

5.10 NEW **Wheel of Fortune.** Nicky Campbell presents (Teleletext) (s) (7488095)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (912569)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (452163)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (953279)

7.00 NEW **Great Western Women.** The Marchioness of Worchester campagns on green issues (8927)

7.30 Coronation Street. Tricia draws a blank in her search for Terry's contact number and address (Teletext) (279)

Film-maker Alan Root (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Survival Special: A Space in the Heart of Africa** (s) (Teletext) (5927)

9.00 Grass Roots. The second part of a mini-series about a lawyer involved in an explosive murder trial. **Concludes after the news** (Teletext) (s) (5163)

10.00 News (Teletext) and weather (53347)

10.30 HTV News (Teletext) (752279)

10.40 Grass Roots. Concluded (Teletext) (s) (122881)

11.30 FILM: Convicted (1986) with Lindsay Wagner and John Larroquette. Tense drama based on a real case, about a man who was wrongly arrested and convicted of the rape of three women. Directed by David Lowell Rich (763231)

1.15 God's Gift (581390) **2.15 Cyber Cafe** (73800) **2.45 Dear Nick** (4159800) **3.50 Bushell on the Box** (r) (s) (82496748) **4.15 Sound Bites** (38388944) **4.30 The Time... the Place** (r) (s) (76922) **5.00 Cover Story** (r) (51125) **5.30 News** (46106)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm Wales Tonight (953279)

7.00-7.30 Cafe Blagl (3327)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: A Little Romance (86994231)

12.55pm Coronation Street (9607231)

1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (61450892)

1.55 Home and Away (92744960)

2.25 Healthy by Nature (61500163)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (7288569)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7488095)

6.00 Westcountry Live (98908)

7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (8927)

CENTRAL

HTV West except:

10.30am Film: A Little Romance (86994231)

12.55pm Home and Away (9607231)

1.25 Cross Wits (61450892)

1.55 A Country Practice (78379989)

2.20 People's Verdict (61501892)

2.50-3.20 Women Talking (9306366)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7488095)

6.25 Central News and Weather (953279)

7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (8927)

11.30 Phoenix (338453)

12.35am Bushell on the Box (6318767)

1.05 God's Gift (4281090)

2.10 Dear Nick (2956651)

3.05 In Focus (6914564)

3.50 Jobfinder (5386800)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

9.50-10.20 Sandokan (7900960)

10.30 Worzel Gummidge Down Under (61366)

11.00 Dogtanian and the Three Muskehounds (3778366)

11.25 Go Getters (3771453)

11.55 Dungeons and Dragons (2559892)

12.55pm Coronation Street (9607231)

1.25 Home and Away (61450892)

1.55 Shortland Street (78379989)

2.20 The Midas Touch (61501892)

2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (9306366)

5.10 Home and Away (7488095)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)

6.30 Animal Country (845)

7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (8927)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Sharky and George (8249298) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (83163) **9.00 California Dreams** (6420873) **9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (6423960) **9.55 Saved by the Bell: The College Years** (6033076) **10.20 Pink Panther** (5213502) **10.45 Rocko's Modern Life** (4562144) **11.05 Crystal Maze** (3058188) **12.00 Mork and Mindy** (43960) **12.30pm Lonely Planet** (71231) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (86250) **1.30 Film: The Divorce of Lady X** (16193908) **3.10 The Montel Williams Show** (8071873) **4.00 Backdate** (908) **4.30 Genderquake** (892) **5.00 5 Pump: Slici a Slac** (7345540) **5.15 5 Pump: Ffeil** (8589434) **5.30 Countdown** (144) **6.00 Newyddion** (818705) **6.15 Heno** (661786) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (730873) **7.25 Moshi Moshi — Siapan** (385778) **8.00 Y Sioe Fawr** (2989) **8.30 Newyddion** (4724) **9.00 Secret History** (3705) **10.00 Brookside** (51989) **10.30 American Gothic** (22811) **11.30 Cybill** (42328) **12.00am Film: Three Colours: Red** (712106)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Sharky and George (r) (8249298)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (93163)

9.00 California Dreams (r) (6420873) **9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack** (r) (s) (6423960) **9.55 Saved by the Bell: The College Years** (r) (Teletext) (6033076) **10.20 Pink Panther** (r) (s) (5213502) **10.45 Rocko's Modern Life** (r) (s) (4562144) **11.05 Crystal Maze** (r) (Teletext) (s) (3058188) **12.00 House to House** (43960) **12.30pm Lonely Planet** (71231) **1.00 Sesame Street** (r) (s) (76786) **2.00 Desperately Seeking Something** (61505618)

2.25 FILM: Let George Do It (1940, b/w) with George Formby as an entertainer who mistakenly ends up in pre-invasion Norway during the Second World War. Directed by Marcel Varnel (928434)

4.00 Backdate (Teletext) (s) (908) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (892) **5.00 Ricki Lake** (Teletext) (s) (5561540) **5.45 Terrytoons** (253328)

Return of the Salingers (6.00pm)

6.00 Party of Five. Charlie and Kirsten are shocked when his former girlfriend claims her three-year-old child is his (Teletext) (s) (415434)

6.50 Terrytoons (957453) **7.00 Channel 4 News** (172637) **7.55 The Slot** (997322)

8.00 Brookside. Mick, forced out of the Novices competition with an injury, turns his attention to Leo (Teletext) (s) (2989)

8.30 Absolutely Animals. The last in the magazine series. When Lucy Cooper was issued with a noise abatement notice, she was advised that if she could not silence her dog, she should have its voicebox removed (Teletext) (s) (4724)

9.00 Ellen. Ellen decides to drop everything and explore America (Teletext) (s) (5434)

9.30 Dressing for Breakfast. Louise plucks up courage and asks her jewellery supplier out (r) (Teletext) (s) (91095)

10.00 American Gothic. Dr Matt Crowther gets the chance to relive the night of the fatal accident (Teletext) (s) (6892)

11.00 The Naked Truth. American sit-com with Tea Leoni as a tabloid newspaper photographer (Teletext) (s) (7279)

11.30 Cheers. Sam acts as peacemaker for Carla (r) (Teletext) (s) (42328)

12.00 Century of Cinema: The Night of the Film-Makers. The director Edgar Reitz discusses German cinema with actors and directors (Teletext) (7475854)

1.05 FILM: The Nasty Girl (1989, colour and b/w). Michael Verhoeven's award-winning fact-based satire with Lena Stolze. In German with English subtitles (776125)

2.45am Exodus. A diary of the Luton anarcho-tribe Exodus, and their war against the *Criminal Justice Bill* (r) (7145552)

3.20 Zombie Town. A glimpse of life in a city under siege in Serbia (r) (83921361) Ends at **3.50**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (43569) **9.00** Press Your Luck (1788502) **9.20** Love Connection (3352724) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (9009927) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6130892) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (1170076) **12.00** Sightings (46386) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (31637) **1.00** Hotel (29892) **2.00** Geraldo (83809) **3.00** Court TV (4366) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5110540) **4.15** Undun (4843250) **5.00** Quantum Leap (5618) **6.00** Beverly Hills 90210 (16328) **7.00** Spellbound (6347) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2873) **8.00** Space: Above and Beyond (68347) **9.00** The Outer Limits (79811) **10.00** Quantum Leap (89298) **11.00** Highlander (23705) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (1884090) **12.45am** The Deliberate Stranger (5104361) **1.30** Smouldering Lust (35293) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (2389854)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am Sunrise (7705415) **9.30** Sky Destinations (94417) **10.30** ABC Nightline (87328) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning Part I (46873) **2.30** CBS News This Morning Part II (67095) **3.30** Sky Destinations (4095) **5.00** Live at Five (81521) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (42786) **7.30** Sportsline (63453) **8.30** Newsmaker (2144) **11.30** CBS Evening News (17415) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (70854) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (10748) **2.30** Newsmaker (32545) **3.30** Sky Destinations (37090) **4.30** CBS Evening News (59125) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight (88106)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (87250) **8.00 The File on Thelma Jordan (1949)** (81231) **10.00 Trail of [illegible] (1995)** (35453) **12.00 Split Infinity (1992)** (33322) **2.00pm Legend of the White Horse (1985)** (63250) **4.00 Mr Mum (1983)** (3250) **6.00 Trail of Tears (1995)** (15873) **7.30 E! News Week in Review** (7569) **8.00 True Lies (1994)** (89074873) **10.20 Chasers (1994)** (546231) **12.05am Midnight Confessions (1993)** (2206496) **1.30 Back to School (1986)** (297354) **3.05-6.00 The Carpetbaggers (1964)** (84072816)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

12.00 National Velvet (1944) (25724) **2.00pm Heaven Knows, Mr Allison (1957)** (45892) **4.00 What's Up, Tiger Lily? (1966)** (5832) **6.00 Red River (1948)** (31766038) **8.15 Throw Momma from the Train (1987)** (33189892) **10.00 The Deep (1977)** (55230892) **12.10am Riot (1969)** (670318) **1.55 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1931)** (999309) **3.30-5.20 Follow the Fleet (1936)** (364106)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Spider-Man: Night of the Clones/Escort of Danger (1978) (35149231) **7.45 Matt the Gooseboy** (9560163) **9.00 Big Top Pee-wee (1988)** (70927) **10.30 Spider-Man Strikes Back (1978)** (24408501) **12.05pm Rascal Dazzle (1981)** (600124) **2.00 Show Business (1944)** (61892) **4.00 Spider-Man: Night of the Clones/Escort of Danger (1978)** (1892) **6.00 My Family Treasure (1993)** (58328) **8.00 Grumpy Old Men (1993)** (53873) **10.00 A Good Man in Africa (1994)** (817231) **11.35 Color of Night (1994)** (44998927) **1.40am Dead of Winter (1987)** (565106) **3.25-6.00 Uncommon Valor (1983)** (60993380)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.05am Quack Attack (78617434) **6.30** Chip 'n' Dale (64135989) **7.20** Ducktales (88930863) **7.45** Ducktales (34254182) **8.10** Quack Attack (84783386) **8.35** Darkwing Duck (47494076) **9.00** Darkwing Duck (95087298) **9.30** Quack Attack (14713144) **10.00** Raw Toonage (84633724) **10.30** Marsupilami (95076182) **11.00** Chip 'n' Dale (82788540) **11.20** Chip 'n' Dale (82764960) **11.45** Sing Me a Story (52543298) **12.15pm** Lamb Chop (64913705) **12.45** Muppet Babies (50249347) **1.00 FILM: White Wolves — a Cry in the Wild II** (37088569) **2.30** Sing Me a Story (84745182) **3.00** Ducktales (10617415) **3.25** Quack Attack (10628250) **3.50** Chip 'n' Dale (69150144) **4.15** Darkwing Duck (59890095) **4.35** Darkwing Duck (97262366) **5.00** Gargoyles (66242811) **5.30** Raw Toonage (84756298) **6.00** Marsupilami (53295160) **6.20** Emerald Cove (52155873) **6.30** Dinosaurs (84737163) **7.00** The Sinbad Show (66239347) **7.30** Entertainment Specials (56654989) **8.30** Gargoyles (50575811) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs

EUROSPORT

6.00am Good Morning Atlanta (50960) **6.30** Good Morning Atlanta (46182) **7.00** Swimming (22892) **8.00** Fencing (23521) **9.00** Wrestling (76908) **10.00** Live Tennis (10279) **12.00** Olympic Team Sprint (13366) **1.00pm** Swimming (89786) **2.00** Live Rowing (38163) **3.00** Live Cycling (64415) **4.00** Live Equestrianism (76250) **5.00** Live Cycling (4255) **5.30** Swimming (26250) **6.30** Live Cycling (820637) **7.15** Live Boxing (898298) **8.00** Olympic Extra (6989) **8.30** Live Judo (26521) **9.30** Live Artistic Gymnastics (678095) **12.00** Olympic Special (27019) **12.30am** Weightlifting (47011) **1.00** Live Boxing (677125) **3.30** Boxing (46274) **5.00** Good Morning Atlanta (33767) **5.30** Swimming (28746)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Rebel Sports (50873) **7.30** Wrestling (24076) **8.30** Racing News (77076) **9.00** Aerobics (68328) **9.30** Skiff Sailing (94917) **10.00** Golf USA: Deposit Guaranty Classic (16811) **12.00** The Story of the FA Cup 1995/96 (55927) **1.30pm** Asian Football (91347) **2.30** Rebel Sports (9908) **3.00** World Eight Ball Pool Championships — Team Final (71637) **5.00** Wrestling (4144) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (989927) **6.05** Over 35's Soccer Tournament (498892) **7.00** The Winning Post: Sandown and Leicester (70637) **9.00** The Pavilion End (15637) **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (871095) **10.15** Skiff Sailing (878415) **10.45** Golf USA: Burnet Senior Classic (296502) **12.45am** Inside the PGA Tour (231309) **1.15** American Sports Cavalcade (261564) **2.15** The Pavilion End (272816) **3.15** Skiff Sailing (218458) **3.45-4.00** Sky Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS GOLD

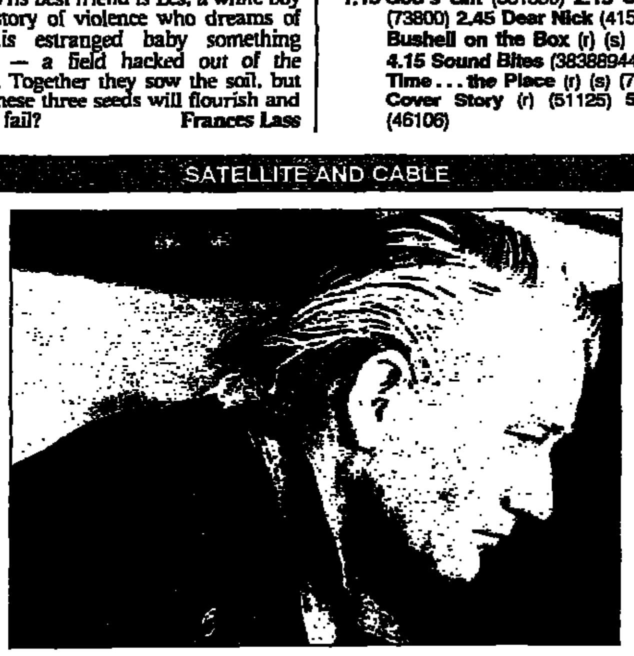
10.00pm Golden Gloves USe with Barry Mcguigan (3416569) **11.00-1.00am** Sky's Top 20 Games 1995/96 (8939298)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** Cutting Edge of Destiny **5.00** Voice of Victory **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** Hill Song **6.15** This Is Your Day **6.45-7.00** Good Morning Europe

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (3941434) **7.55** As the World Turns (4722502) **8.50** Peyton Place (8220786) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (9807076) **10.10-11.00** Another World



John Wayne stars in *Red River* (Sky Movies Gold, 6.00pm)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Boomerang (6842778) **11.30** Dive Programmes (5492237) **12.00** California's Gold (6801786) **12.30pm** Pierre Franey's Cooking in France (6374095) **1.00** Getaway (6914618) **1.30** Australian Panorama (6373366) **2.00** Great Sports Vacations (2309873) **2.30** Moving Postcards (1700415) **3.00** Globetrotter (2328908) **3.30** Around the World... in 30 Minutes (5788786) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (86132250)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of the Century (6842958) **5.00** Hollywood (2302560) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Women in Power Week: Eleanor Roosevelt (6359786)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic sci-fi series every day from **8am-2am** on cable and **1am-4am**, plus 7pm-10pm Monday-Wednesday, on satellite

7.00pm Battlestar Galactica (3417298) **8.00 FILM: When Worlds Collide** (3497434) **10.00** Close (9732811) **1.00am** The Six Million Dollar Man (3215034) **2.00-4.00 FILM: Ritual of Evil** (3231212)

TLC

9.00am The Joy of Painting (5699415) **9.30** Grow Your Own (8282231) **10.00** Neat Stuff (5278521) **10.30** This Old House (5528927) **11.00** The Painted House (1306705) **11.30** Room Service (1307434) **12.00** Julia Child (5519279) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (8293347) **1.00** Simply Delicious with Family and Friends (1175453) **1.30** Home Again with Bob Vila (8392618) **2.00** Our House (5508847) **2.30** Garden Club (3092279) **3.00** Two's Country (6053732) **3.30-4.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm (3097724)

UK GOLD

7.00am Happy Ever After (1178540) **7.30** Neighbours (1164347) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (5501250) **8.30** EastEnders (5500521) **9.00** The Bill (5591873) **9.30** The Sullivans (8291989) **10.00** Big Deal (1163231) **11.00** Bulkaye (1308163) **11.30** Tellystack (1641960) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (83078279) **12.30** Neighbours (8295705) **1.00** EastEnders (2298811) **1.35** Hi-De-Hi (4172298) **2.15** Home James (8236328) **2.50** Odd Man Out (6980415) **3.30** The Bill (3099182) **4.00** Casualty (62573057) **5.05** Tellystack (54605366) **5.35** XYZ (9321298) **6.05** Taxi (7566796) **6.25** EastEnders (4738908) **7.00** Morecambe and Wise (3724786) **8.00 FILM: Carry on Matron** (3737250) **10.00** The Bill (3930076) **10.35** Reginald Perrin (3202521) **11.20** Mother Love (8751705) **12.25am FILM: The Hellfire Club** (30811038) **1.55-3.00** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Tiny TCC **7.00** Tiny and Crew **8.00** Barney **8.30** Dinobabies **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Byker Grove **10.00** Heartbreak High **11.00** Madison **11.30** Hang Time **12.00** Degrassi **12.30pm** Pugwall's Summer **1.00** California Dreams **1.30** Cybernet **2.00** Ready or Not **2.30** Madison **3.00** Heartbreak High **4.00** California Dreams **4.30-5.00** Byker Grove

NICKELODEON

6.00am Bananas in Pyjamas (9470182) **6.15** Mr Men (9475637) **6.30** Babar (26328) **7.00** Littlest Pet Shop (58415) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (60250) **8.00** Biker Mice from Mars (76347) **8.30** Mighty Max (75618) **9.00** Rugrats (72182) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (40908) **10.30** Doug (88182) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (65144) **11.30** The Adventures of Pete and Pete (66973) **12.00** Alex Mack (79434) **12.30pm** Ren and Stimpy (85205) **1.00** Santo Bugito (57786) **1.30** Capital Critters (51796) **2.00** Ferrals (2927) **2.30** Mighty Max (9750) **3.00** Biker Mice from Mars (1434) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (2095) **4.00** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (1502) **4.30** Rugrats (7786) **5.00** Sister Sister (2786) **6.00** Alex Mack (8279) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (2231)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Legends of History (1397057) **5.00** Time Travellers (7608827) **5.30** Jurassica (3098095) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (8201366) **7.00** Wild Things: Human/Nature (1908683) **7.30** Mysterious Forces Beyond (3073144) **8.00** Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe (5803291) **8.30** Ghosthunters (6858188) **9.00** Unexplained (3744540) **10.00** Spies Above (3754927) **11.00-12.00** Murder (1152502)

BRAVO

12.00 Robin Hood (5506705) **12.30pm** William Tell (8280873) **1.00** thirtysomething (8285328) **2.00** Honey West (1108881) **2.30** It's Garry Shandling's Show (3089705) **3.00** The Saint (1305076) **4.00 FILM: The Fiction Makers** (8853714) **6.00** Charlie Chan (3080434) **6.30** Danger Man (3071786) **7.00** Department S (3742182) **8.00** Sapphire and Steel (1003237) **8.30** Weekly World News (2568322) **9.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (3748366) **10.00-12.00 FILM: Sunday Too Far Away** (1304347)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Family Ties (3415) **7.30** Entertainment Tonight (8415) **8.00** Wings (2163) **8.30** Laverne and Shirley (1298) **9.00** Soap (85908) **9.30** Taxi (27569) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (70163) **10.30** The Critic (89811) **11.00** Dr Katz (80453) **11.30** Nightstand (53231) **12.30am** I Love Lucy (83187) **1.00** Laverne and Shirley (32632) **1.30** Taxi (88309) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (18274) **2.30** The Critic (35309) **3.00-4.00** Nightstand (46187)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (2912368) **7.00** Esther (2290095) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (4908521) **8.20** Gladrags and Glamour (4845827) **8.30** Gardeners' World (8805786) **9.00** Delia Smith's Cookery Course (3696144) **9.35** Kate and Allie (8865328) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (8110637) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (8448182) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (4208989) **11.55** Brookside (4023076) **12.30pm** Gabrielle (7298250) **1.20** Catchword (3042366) **2.00** Cagney and Lacey (2412673) **3.00** Live at Three (2320057) **4.00** Infatuation UK (7919989) **4.30** Crosswits (7972076) **5.05** Lingo (84676705) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (7922453) **6.00** Bewitched (7929366) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (3044892) **7.05** Brookside (3920827) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (9190873) **8.00** Street Legal (9505665) **9.00 FILM: Fatal Memories** (50217637) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (5827328) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (2276415)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Road to Avonlea (8502) **6.00** Batman (5521) **6.30** Catchphrase (6873) **7.00** A Word in Your Ear (9231) **7.30** The Fall Guy (29057) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (4786) **9.00** The Father Dowling Mysteries (59095) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (52182) **11.00** Sirens (42989) **12.00** The Fall Guy (73309) **1.00am** Batman (96854) **1.30** The Father Dowling Mysteries (92380) **2.30** All Together Now (71125) **3.00** Big Brother Jake (76090) **3.30** GP (62477) **4.00-5.00** Road to Avonlea (10274)

MTV

7.30am Spin Doctors Past Present and Future (47434) **8.00** Morning Mix (868076) **11.00** European Top 20 (56182) **12.00** Greatest Hits Olympic Edition (57724) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (16647) **3.00** Select MTV (15163) **4.00** Hanging Out Summertime (81366) **5.30** Dial MTV (7368) **6.00** Hanging Extra (4279) **6.30** Beach Bum Festival (6231) **7.00** Greatest Hits Olympic Edition (62569) **8.00** M-cyclopedia — P (46986) **9.00** Singled Out (23182) **9.30** MTV Amour (37989) **10.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (27095) **11.00** Unplugged with Alice in Chains (44347) **12.00** Night Videos (2563922) **5.00am-6.00** Awake on the Wildside (71212)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (6913989) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (1801366) **11.00** Music First (6905960) **12.00** Heart and Soul (6355960) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (6371908) **2.00** Ten of the Best (1892618) **3.00** Into the Music (6997434) **6.00** Happy Hour (6351144) **7.00** VH-1 for You (3486328) **8.00** Wednesday Review (3495076) **9.00** Ten of the Best (3408540) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (3418927) **11.00** Tommy Vance Is the Nightfly (8908328) **1.00am** Ten of the Best (8663372) **2.00** Dawn Patrol (4372212)

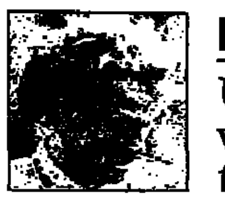
ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (92137368) **7.30** Life Style East (70470811) **8.30** Positive Health Show (82266163) **9.00** Bengali Serial: Kagajer Bou (82257415) **9.30** Hit The Hit Hai (46847705) **10.00** Urdu Serial Hissar (92112057) **11.00** Manasi (86325502) **11.30** Damir (32351163) **12.30pm** V3 (46841521) **1.00** Urdu Movie (79332540) **4.00** Public Demand (86349182) **5.00** Zee Zone (41458095) **5.30** Film Deewane (60861453) **6.00** Campus (60868366) **6.30** Zee and You (60859618) **7.00** Flu (41438231) **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat (60848502) **8.00** News (41454279) **8.30** Dastaan (41433786) **9.00-12.00** Hindi **FILM: Akarman** (62934095)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958) (59118163) **9.00 The VIPs (1963)** (71085927) **11.00 Westworld (1973)** (65416811) **12.40am Catlow (1971)** (15172800) **2.30 The Angry Hills (1959)** (24811212)



FOOTBALL 40

United enter talks with Barcelona to sign Cruyff

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 24 1996

TENNIS 46

Yorkshire stalwart answers call to county arms

Late equaliser keeps alive hopes of place in Olympic semi-finals

Britain draw on Giles's expertise

Holland	2
Great Britain	2

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN ATLANTA

THE strange laws of hockey and a video camera helped to produce a sizzling match between Holland, the favourites in Pool B, and Great Britain in the Olympic Games men's hockey competition yesterday. A draw, snatched by Calum Giles, the penalty corner specialist, five minutes from the finish, earned Britain an invaluable point.

On a morning at Clark University, during which players lost up to 8lb in temperatures that reached the 90s, the play equalled the frying-pan conditions. Britain were outplayed for the opening 20 minutes and much of the last 20, yet steady nerves, the superb judgment of Mason in goal, Wyatt at the heart of defence and Soma Singh in midfield, plus the summary execution of Giles, leaves Britain with all to play for in their bid to reach the semi-finals.

It is bizarre that Britain have been able, controversially but legally, to exploit the rolling-substitute law, introduced last year, to utilise Giles as a 30-second striker. His goal was his 38th in 51 matches, the value apparent from the fact that Britain have yet to score in open play.

Games chaos 11
Gymnastic mastery 42
Results 43
Atlanta guide 44

Thompson, right, of Great Britain, is shadowed by Brinkman, the Holland defender, during their Pool B match yesterday. Photograph: Gary M Prior/Allsport

Roelant Oltmans, the Holland coach, had no complaints. "It's part of the rules, and as long as they're there, it's a good idea," he said. "Personally, I'd throw the rule out straightaway." He thought Britain were negative, working on defensive strategies.

No less extraordinary, however, than this regulation, is a law that persecutes a player for inadvertently getting his head in the way of an 80mph penalty-corner shot, allowing the opposition a penalty stroke. That was Singh's fate when, 11 minutes from time, he deflected van den Honert's penalty-corner scoop, which left him lying on the ground. The wily veteran, Delissen, beat Mason from the penalty flick. To rescue a point from that setback was particularly satisfying for the British.

"We were looking for two points from two games," David Whittle, the team manager, said, "so we're pleased to be on target [after drawing 2-2 against South Korea]. No, I don't think we're a defensive team. We're in the process of building for a big tournament, not hanging ourselves early. Holland are one of the most potent teams in the world. We knew the pool would be a dogfight."

Giles has a rare facility to flick the ball harder than many can hit it. Britain exploit his skill in varying power and direction to keep themselves among the world's leading nations in the absence of a front-rank striker. Giles is advised by Jon Copp, the head coach, sitting beside him on the bench, where to aim each time he dashes onto the field.

Copp is receiving information from a video camera situated on the other side of the field, and yesterday reviewed his decision on Giles's aim from evidence of the Dutch formation as they rushed from the goalline at a previous penalty corner. Giles unerringly placed the ball high in the top right hand of Jansen's net. Four minutes before half-time, Jansen had saved brilliantly from Giles's previous effort.

Even at nine in the morning, the sun was intimidating. From the start, de Nooijer, on the left of Holland's attack, threatened England's defence with his pace and dextrous dribbling. Britain responded with runs by Nicky Thompson, while Takher hit a post from the fringe of the circle after 11 minutes.

Holland went ahead from a penalty corner six minutes later, Bovelander, their former defender now switched to midfield, sweeping home Brinkman's ball from the line. Moments later, Delissen should have scored, but skied the ball over the top.

Eight minutes before half-time, Lee, who had come on as a substitute for Hall, had his stick taken in the circle by Jazet, Holland's central defender. A penalty stroke was awarded, and Jansen received a green card for protesting. Garcia made simple the task of flicking the ball past the bulky goalkeeper.

Holland pressed early in the second half, Mason again saving a penalty corner from Bovelander. In the unrelenting heat, the score remained level until Singh's misfortune. Van den Honert's shot struck his head, rebounded off the right-hand post on to the left, came out, and was put in the net by van den Honert, but the umpire already had his arm raised for a foul, the Dutch protesting that the goal should be allowed. Just when it seemed that Delissen's penalty stroke had ended Britain's hopes, up sprang Giles from the substitutes' bench.

HOLLAND: R Jansen; L K Gebbink, E Jazet, W van Pelt, M Delissen, J Brinkman, S Veen, F J Bovelander, J Delmee, T de Nooijer, T van den Honert.

GREAT BRITAIN: S Mason; J Wyatt, J Halls, S Singh, J Laslett, K Takher, N Thompson, C Myer, P McGuire, R Garcia, D Hall. Substitutes used: S Hazlitt, J Lee, J Shaw, C Giles.

Umpires: L Morales (Spain) and R Wolter (Germany)

Legalities disrupt England's planning for Lord's

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

A RARE mix of legal, medical and meteorological considerations is confusing England's preparation for the first Test match against Pakistan at Lord's. Much the most alarming prospect is that the game could begin tomorrow with Michael Atherton, the captain, detained in the witness box at the High Court where, ironically, he would be giving evidence on behalf of a former captain of Pakistan.

Atherton, who has been subpoenaed by Imran Khan in the libel case brought by Ian Botham and Allan Lamb, spent yesterday morning at the court without being called and must now report back today, when he has been assured his evidence will be heard as a matter of priority. At best, this will undermine England's final practice session. At worst, it could disrupt the match itself.

Speed test 46

This unprecedented situation was plainly irritating Atherton yesterday but he is helpless to resolve it. The England coach, David Lloyd, is another of Imran's witnesses in a case providing a wholly unwelcome distraction.

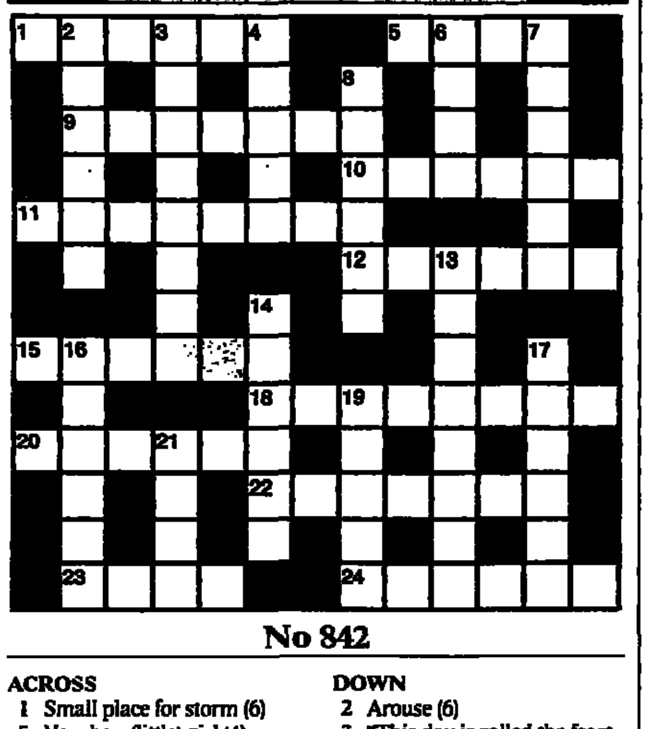
Nasser Hussain, however, had other matters on his mind yesterday as he gingerly tested his broken right index finger in the nets at Lord's. It did not go well and if the game was beginning today Hussain would not be playing.

"Driving through the gates today I felt I would definitely be all right," he said. "It's OK when the ball hits the middle of the bat but painful when it hits anywhere else." He realises his chances are slim.

"I want to give it another go because I'm not going to give up my place without a fight. I spent two years wondering if I would get another chance in the side and it would be heartbreaking to have to miss a Lord's Test."

The altered weather conditions could have a bearing on the composition of the attack. Yesterday's practice was interrupted several times by thunder showers and if the weather remains humid, the chances of Simon Brown making his Test debut will greatly increase.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 842

ACROSS
1 Small place for storm (6)
5 Voucher: (little) girl (4)
9 Race-track double-bend (7)
10 Yellow pigment; eg car-bumper coating (6)
11 If there is no alternative (2,1,5)
12 Conclusion (6)
15 Verse of poem (6)
18 Absolutely naked (8)
20 TV hoax-victim trophy (6)
22 Displayed (for inspection) (4,3)
23 Indication (4)
24 Specialist (6)

DOWN
2 Arouse (6)
3 "This day is called the feast of —" *(Henry V)* (8)
4 Obvious; low, flat ground (5)
6 Period of time; type of glass (4)
7 Tracy —, *Pickwick Club* member (6)
8 Promiscuous man (6)
13 1933 Marx Brothers film (4,4)
14 Dark volcanic rock (6)
16 Doubting apostle (6)
17 Meteorite pit (6)
19 Wonderland girl (5)
21 Rugged peak (4)

SOLUTION TO No. 841

ACROSS: 1 Dosser 4 Sordid 8 Play 9 Forceful 10 Take issue 13 Scale 15 Trait 16 Forte 18 Ring a bell 21 Congreve 22 Wing 23 Sleuth 24 Digest

DOWN: 1 Deputy 2 Sparkler 3 Rufus 5 Orchestra 6 Doff 7 Deluge 11 Interpret 12 Swain 14 Appetite 16 Fracas 17 Slight 19 Greed 20 Anne

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 837
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 6 Trapeze 7 Lucre 9 Relic 10 Astound 11 Chill factor 14 Let off steam 17 Stretch 19 Defoe 21 Ascot 22 Muezzin

DOWN: 1 Gaul 2 Kerchief 3 Recall 4 Blot 5 Accustom 6 Term 8 Endure 11 Cut-price 12 Aberdeen 13 Alaska 15 Scheme 16 Mean 18 Tate 20 Faze

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is B Henry, Ballymoney, Co Antrim.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is Mrs Pearce, East Grinstead, Sussex.

All flights subject to availability.

Golden girl Smith tries to laugh off drug slurs

Craig Lord on the rapid improvement of Ireland's double Olympic champion

Michelle Smith, with two gold medals in the bag, threw back her flaxen locks in laughter, her emerald eyes shining with mirth, her defence ready. The question was: What did she think about whispers around the Georgia Tech pool that her phenomenal progress might be down to drugs?

"I find that really funny," she said. "My ultimate answer is that you've just got to look at the fact that I'm the most tested Irish athlete around. I think for every test that the American swimmers have, I have about five. Fina [swimming's governing body] drug testers, well, they know my name by heart and I can almost tell you what they have in their coffee at this stage."

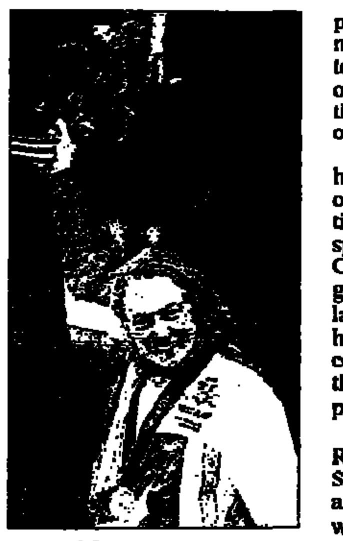
Speculation surrounding Smith has its roots not only in her improvement from average to outstanding in international waters at 26, but the presence of Erik de Bruin, the suspended Dutch discus thrower, whom she married last month.

De Bruin is to Smith what Henry Higgins was to Eliza Doolittle, transforming the swimmer both physically and mentally after becoming her coach in 1993. The two formed a relationship at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and De Bruin has "applied the techniques of track and field" to Smith's aquatic programme.

Commenting on her progress, Smith said: "I think it's a combination of things. I have great support from my husband and my coach, who sets my training regime and has turned around my mental attitude.

"I've totally changed my regime these past 3½ years. I did the typical long-distance swimming programme for so many years. When my husband took over my coaching, he said the way I trained was the way they trained on the track 15 years ago. I used to just swim long disance all the time — I swam and I swam and swam. My husband's idea was that if you go out faster over the first 100 or 200 metres by improving your sprint times, even if your endurance stays the same, then you're automatically going to be faster. So we started doing more sprint and strength work while retaining some of the endurance elements."

Smith acknowledges her physical change, explaining that she took up weight-training for the first time at 23. "I gained a lot of strength and put it into my swimming stroke and for someone of my height — I'm only 5ft 3in — I've got a really long stroke and can pull a lot of water."



Smith: great support

As for her age, she notes that "a lot of swimmers are realising that they can continue longer and not only swim at the top but swim faster than they did when younger". She cites Janet Evans, 25, though fails to say that the American swam her best times when 17 and 18 years old in the late eighties and has never come close since.

Smith is unperturbed by the speculation. "No, it doesn't make me angry. Nothing can spoil my joy and my happiness now I've got two medals. These past three years, I've given up everything. I quit university and came back from the States [US] because I really wasn't achieving what I knew I could. Everything's been put aside for this."

She is now being billed as a possible winner of four gold medals, with the 200m medley today and the 200m butterfly on Friday. Smith says that those expectations are a "tall order" but not impossible.

Helping to drive her to heights she had only dreamed of before is her Irish patriotism. "I went to an All-Irish speaking school [Colaiste Chilliaif in Dublin] and that gave me a great love of the language, the culture and the history and the heritage. It all comes together when you see that flag going up there on the podium," she said.

Her parent's home in Rathcoole is a shrine to Smith. "There are pictures and medals covering every wall all over the house," she said.

Judgment serves Henman's cause

TIM HENMAN took the first step towards an Olympic tennis medal yesterday, but only after receiving a helping hand from a line judge. The British No 1 was a set point down at 5-6 against Shuzo Matsuoka, of Japan, when his second service appeared to land wide of the service box.

The linesman agreed but then immediately corrected himself, giving Henman another first service. Henman took full advantage by holding on to force a tie-break which he took 7-4, completing the set with an excellent forehand down the line.

Henman, the world No 37, who made far too many errors in the opening set, gained in confidence as the Japanese, ranked No 85, effectively threw in the towel.

The 21-year-old from Oxford won the first 11 points of the second set and although Matsuoka did regather his thoughts, it was too late. Henman dropped just four points on his serve in the second set before winning the match 7-6, 6-3, in 1hr 22min, with a forehand that landed precisely on the sideline.

Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, the defending champion, swept aside Hicham Arazi, of Morocco, 6-2, 6-3 in the opening match on centre court match. Rosset, the No 8 seed, won five consecutive games in the first set to take command against Arazi, ranked eightieth in the world.

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, winner of a bronze medal at Barcelona and No 3 seed in the women's draw, took the final three games to beat Dominique Van Roost, of Belgium, 6-1, 7-5.

Can't get started?

0800 550 550

join us

RAC